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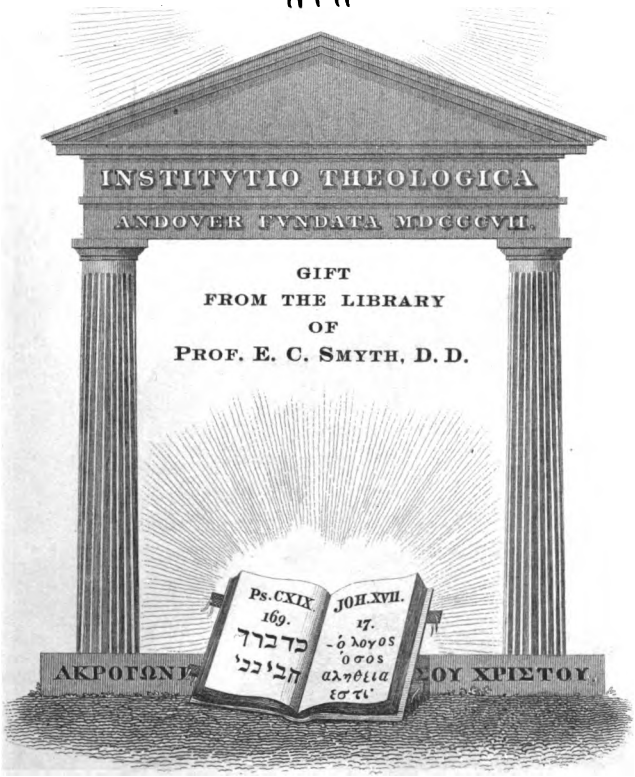

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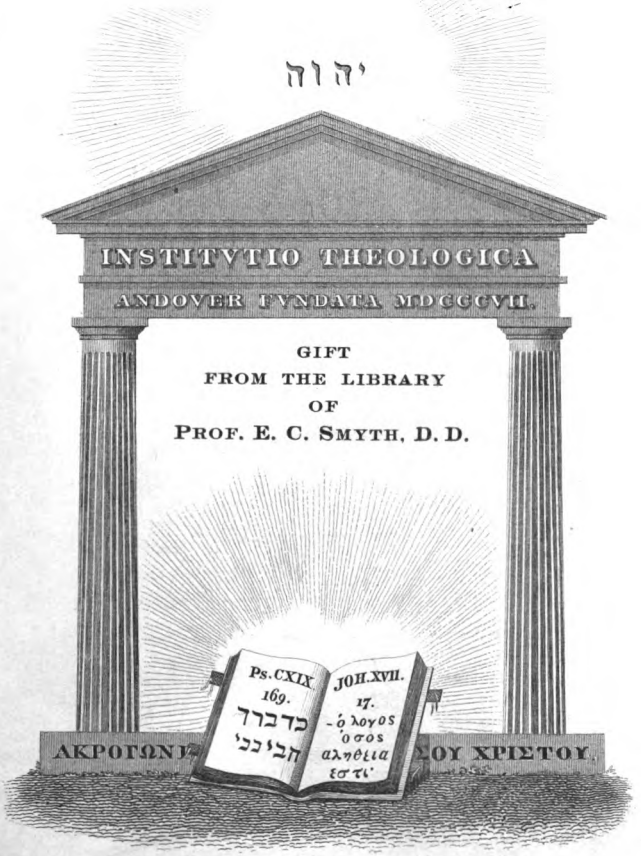

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Weir, James W.

THE

CLOSET COMPANION;

OR,

MANUAL OF PRAYER:

CONSISTING OF TOPICS AND BRIEF FORMS OF PRAYER,

DESIGNED TO ASSIST CHRISTIANS IN THEIR DEVOTIONS.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION,

BY ALBERT BARNES.

FOURTH EDITION.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY M. W. DODD,
Corner of Spruce St. and City Hall Square.

1854.

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INTRODUCTION.

The following work on Prayer was submitted to me in manuscript by the author for my perusal, before it was committed to the press. It may be proper to state that it has been prepared amidst the duties of an industrious calling, demanding necessarily nearly the entire hours of the day. It has been written during the intervals which could be secured from active duties; and by practising much self-denial.

I have examined the work in manuscript, and as it has passed through the press, with deep and growing interest, and with increasingly augmented convictions of its utility, and of the ability with which it is written. Some of the characteristics of the work, I think, will be found to be the following.

1. It is designed to be an *outline* of the subjects of prayer. It is not intended to be used as a form of devotion; but to contain the leading sentiments on the various topics of prayer, which it might be desirable to employ. It had its origin in the author's own sense of the need of such a work when he became a professor of religion. In his private devotions, as well as in his public prayers, he deeply felt then the desirableness of some such manual, that would suggest the appropriate language, and the appropriate trains of thought, on the various topics of prayer. This deeply-felt necessity in his own

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case, suggested to him the idea that such a work might be demanded also by the embarrassments of others. It was supposed by him—as is undoubtedly the case—that many others may have similar difficulties when they at first make a profession of religion: and that they would be materially benefited by some such aid as this volume is designed to furnish. Probably in all our churches there are many, particularly among the young, who experience much embarrassment when called to offer prayer in public, and who would be materially aided by some such work as this, suggesting the appropriate language, and appropriate Scripture passages, on the various topics of prayer. There is no work, it is believed, which meets this deficiency; or which will serve to relieve the embarrassment which is so often felt. Unless I am deceived, this work will, therefore, occupy a place which is filled by no other, and will be found to be a very material aid, particularly to the younger members of the churches.

2. The style is uncommonly pure, simple, chaste, and remarkably adapted to the subjects. It abounds with Scripture phrases and with passages happily introduced and pertinent to the subject. It is elegant and finished, without any improper attempt at ornament, and yet with as much ornament as is proper in public prayer. It is always serious and solemn; always breathes a spirit of true devotion; and such as will express the feelings of elevated piety in an address to God. It is such as would be prompted by a well-disciplined mind, a cultivated intellect, and a pure heart; a spirit chaste, and refined, and impressed with a sense of the divine presence, and of the importance of the service of prayer, when deeply

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conscious of addressing the great and eternal God. In some of the prayers there is uncommon beauty of language; and if such language should become common, even in the pulpit, it would materially conduce to the interest which is felt in this part of public worship. Indeed, I know of no book, except the Bible, by familiarity with whose modes of expression, even the ministers of the gospel would be more directly benefited, than this little volume. The more it is examined, I think, the more will the beauty of the language be appreciated and felt.

3. The sentiments are Scriptural. The great truths of evangelical Christianity are presented, while at the same time there is, probably, no sentiment advanced which could not be uttered, and which is not constantly uttered, in prayer, by the great body of Christians of all denominations. The doctrines of the fall and ruin of man; of the depravity of the heart; of its deep pollutions and evil tendencies; of the divinity and incarnation of the Redeemer: of his atoning sacrifice; of justification by his merits; of the agency of the Holy Spirit in renewing and sanctifying the soul; of the eternal rewards of the righteous, and the eternal condemnation of the wicked; and the obligation to a holy life, will be found to prevail everywhere in the work. At the same time, it is imbued with a large and catholic spirit. It breathes benevolence towards all. It utters the language of supplication for all. And it would tend to promote a liberal and large spirit among all who should use it.

4. It is a work adapted to the times in which we live. It is fitted to direct the mind and the heart more and more towards the plans of Christian benevolence, and to

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foster a love for the institutions which contemplate the salvation of the world. Its constant use would make a Christian more and more the friend of Sabbath-schools; of the poor; of the afflicted; and of the institutions for the translation and spread of the Bible, and for spreading the gospel around the world. Prayer, formed after the models here presented, would breathe always the benevolent spirit of the gospel, and would be fitted to foster in the hearts of Christians, elevated views of devotion, and Christian benevolence, and, at the same time, tend to secure the divine co-operation and blessing on the great enterprises for the conversion of this whole world to Christ.

With these characteristics, this book will do good, in my humble judgment, wherever it is used. It will be found a material and very valuable aid in the devotions of the young; and will tend to promote a spirit of self-denial and benevolence; and to diffuse among the followers of the Redeemer, more ardent wishes for the conversion of all mankind to God.

ALBERT BARNES.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29, 1837.

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PREFACE.

It might be reasonably presumed by any one who did not know the contrary, that every Christian is acquainted with all the items of the long catalogue of his wants in the sight of God; and that he is able to spread them before the Throne of Grace in appropriate language. Yet every person, at all intimate with church members, and especially with those who are young in the Christian life, has had abundant opportunity to observe, that most of them know but few of their religious necessities, as subjects of prayer; and that they are in consequence without definite feelings respecting them, and adequate words to express them.

The influence of prayer, in forming private piety, and in giving tone to the character and success to the efforts of the church, is fully acknowledged by all. Indeed the theory of all God's people is, that without this instrumentality religion would die as surely and as speedily as the panting animal in an exhausted receiver. And their views are equally positive, that with this means of grace, used in its fullest power, a mental and moral renovation would take place through all the earth's inhabitants, that would be almost as complete and blessed in its kind

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as that creation of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

It is, moreover, a conceded fact, that the devotional character of Christians by no means keeps pace with their religious activities. Action, *action*, is the watchword of their present history: and it is surely a requisite of obedience to God. But without prayer it becomes a mere lifeless apparatus. Nor will it be regarded as uncharitable to say, that a large amount of their efforts, in each of the various departments of benevolent enterprise, is deficient in this vitality; and that in this defectiveness we find the explanation, why their success is so utterly disproportioned to their exertions.

Yet notwithstanding these correct opinions, so generally entertained, it is still a melancholy truth, that but few professing Christians carry them out into practice. Individual piety, except in comparatively few instances, still lingers in its infancy. The church of Christ is still feeble in her energies, and limited in her triumphs; and the latter-day glory which might even now, so far as human agency is concerned, be pouring the full blaze of its meridian splendours over a regenerated world, is only dimly seen in the distant sky, breaking the outline of darkness with the faint promise of future light.

The inquiry naturally arises—"Why have not Christians used this power of prayer?" The answer submitted here is, that a principal reason is to

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be found in the fact that, as a body, they have never made its *various topics* matters of *close and heart-felt familiarity* and *suitable expression*, in their private devotions. They have not furnished their understandings with a particular knowledge of the things they need, nor exercised their affections by the frequent presentation of them before God, in all their particularity, and in language that will at once express and excite the feelings suitable to such an important service.

The following work has been humbly undertaken with the view of furnishing Christians, and especially young converts, with a manual of the *subjects* and *modes of prayer;* and thus of pointing out (if not of supplying to some extent) the means of remedying the deficiencies noticed above. The author is fully aware that his effort is a feeble one. His path was untrodden and difficult; and it ought not to be wondered at, if he has cast up a highway which the traveller will not find to be level and direct in all its length. Moreover, the peculiar character of the undertaking has forbidden the frequent use of such ornaments of style as are permitted in almost every other composition; and it has thus been left nearly destitute of literary interest.

This volume should not be regarded merely as a *book of forms*. It has not been the intention of the writer to furnish a complete prayer under each topic; but to offer the leading ideas which would seem to

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belong to each, to arrange them in some order, and to give them a scriptural and evangelical expression. The proper use of the book, it is hoped, will store the reader's memory with a vocabulary of his wants, supply his understanding with a train of thought suitable to them, and give his heart an intelligent and fervent habit of stated and ejaculatory devotion.

It may be considered a serious defect by many devout persons, that these topics are not severally closed by the invocation of a blessing through the Mediator, or an ascription of praise to God. They do not, however, appear justly liable to this charge, inasmuch as they are intended only as *parts* of prayer, which, except in special cases, are to be employed in various combinations with other parts, at the user's pleasure. The important and essential feature of a distinct reference to the merits of the Saviour, will, it is expected, be found in sufficient frequency throughout the body of the work; and it is presumed, that every Christian is competent and mindful, in closing his petitions, to supply that part of the exercise which is technically called the "blessing."

As some may be disappointed in not finding particular points more copiously expressed, it may be remarked that this apparent deficiency will, in most cases, be found supplied under other heads; the language of which could not be used at the points that may be noticed as defective, without unpleasant and unnecessary repetition.

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Others may think that there is too great a disproportion between the personal and intercessory supplications. The mode pursued has been intentionally adopted, so as to give a greater degree of unity to the work. Although intercessory prayer is introduced in lesser proportions than might seem consonant with the petitioner's strong yearnings of heart for the best welfare of mankind; yet it was known that but little more than the mere substitution of pronouns, would make nearly the whole language of the book available in supplicating blessings on others.

It has been a sedulous desire throughout these pages, to keep them free from sectarian peculiarities, and to furnish a volume which would (without offence to any) contribute to the devotion of every evangelical denomination. If any bias should be discovered in it, the reader may be assured that it was wholly unintentional.

This work is principally designed to furnish an assistant to closet devotion. But the plan it suggests, is not intended to end with this advantage. It is well known that the business of leading in public prayer is limited to a few, who are gifted with more courage, capacity, or zeal, than the large majority of the church; which is thus left without employment in that particular sphere of Christian duty. The hope is entertained that the system of devotional thought, presented in these pages, will

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assist in bringing out into this service, some who having been intimidated by its difficulties, are now relying supinely on the gifts of their more favoured brethren. It should be a prominent object with every church to have a numerous band, who are able intelligently and fervently to lead its devotions: but the great body of church-members will not be able to discharge this important duty without diligent attention to the gifts and graces of supplication.

It should not be understood that the author regards the *machinery* of prayer as possessing more value than its *spirit*. Far, very far otherwise. It would be infinitely better to employ the broken and disjointed sentences of untutored but craving religious want, than to use with heartless formality the most finished liturgy. Still it is true, on the whole, that the excellency and efficacy of prayer will depend very much on our knowing, definitely and thoroughly, *what we want*, and *how to express our desires*

THE AUTHOR.

October, 1837

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MANUAL OF PRAYER.

ACCOUNTABILITY.

O THOU Judge of the quick and the dead, make me realize that I am responsible to thee for all my thoughts, words, and actions; and in all my duties and privileges. Thou knowest all the thoughts of my mind, with all the works of my life; and thou makest record of them:—and for all these thou wilt bring me into judgment, whether they be good or evil. Then there shall be nothing that now is covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be made known: and it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for my soul, if I fail to serve thee now in reverence and godly fear. For even the earth that drinketh in the rain, that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God; but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. O let not my stewardship of thy mercies be one of wilful sin, of abused privileges, and neglected duties; but grant that in all things I may strive, in the grace of Christ, to work out my salvation with fear and trembling.

Lord, excite me to diligent labour on behalf of thy church and of sinners. May I feel that I am bound to do good as I have opportunity; looking diligently to the judgment of that day, when the

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unprofitable servant shall be cast into outer darkness, while he that has been faithful shall enter, through the atonement of Christ, into the joy of his Lord. And unto him that is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

ADOPTION.

Lord, wilt thou give me the spirit of adoption, by which I may cry "Abba, Father?" I am indeed thine offspring by creation. May I be thine by adoption: and be thou my parent in that nobler relation, of a reconciled God and Father in the Lord Jesus. Make me one of the number, and give me, through the merits of Christ, a title to the privileges, of thy dear children. Behold! what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on them, that they should be called the sons of God!

O grant that in indulging this hope, I may purify myself, even as thou art pure. Make it a spirit of tenderness and reverence, of gratitude and love, of obedience and zeal. May it give me access to thy throne with an humble confidence in the faith of Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; and keep me from that spirit of bondage, that servile fear and slavish formality in duty, which will make me as a hired servant, instead of an heir, in my Father's house. May it enable me in all the vicissitudes of life to look up to thee as infinitely able and willing to bless me with thy paternal gifts: for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to

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them that ask him. Grant that thy Spirit may bear witness with mine that I am thy child; and if a child, then an heir, and a joint-heir with Christ, in that inheritance which fadeth not away.

Look in mercy, O God, on thy children by nature, who are wandering as prodigals from their home, and are living without God in the world. Touch their hearts with a feeling of their wants and their apostasy; and do thou bring many back, who shall say they have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. Establish them in the fellowship of thy saints, and make them heirs of the grace of life, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

ADORATION.

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It

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was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!—[*See* PRAISE, *and the various Attributes.*]

AFFLICTION.

In the time of trouble, hide me in thy pavilion, O Lord! Prepare me for meeting and bearing all the adversities of life. Support or deliver me in poverty, in sickness, in pain, in bereavement, in persecution, in sorrow, in reproach. Let the trial of my faith in all these work patience and holiness. May I endure as seeing him who is invisible; and so repose on thy wisdom and goodness, that I may say—"Thy will be done—do with me as seemeth good in thy sight—thou givest and takest away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Though thy judgments are unsearchable, and thy ways past finding out, I know that thou art too wise to err; for thine understanding is infinite. Thou art too good to be unkind; for thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; yea, whom thou lovest thou chastenest, and scourgest every child whom thou receivest. Lord, cause my judgment, and heart, and will to approve of every measure of thy correcting and reclaiming love.

O Shepherd of Israel, cause my every adversity to be sanctified to me. Lead me to see thy hand in it; to feel that my sins have far more than deserved it; and to be willing that thy justice may be exalted at my expense, and that I may be brought

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to acknowledge, "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me." Show me that my cup has been mingled with mercies; for the days of my comforts have far outnumbered the hours of my sorrows—that my griefs are not peculiar to me; for they are the lot of humanity—that they are not the accidents of life; for thou dost all things—and that I am not called to suffer them alone; for thou hast said, "I will never leave nor forsake thee:" and thy rod and staff they shall comfort and support me, even in the valley and shadow of death.

Lord, grant that thy grace may be peculiarly dear to me in the hour of trial; and bring me out from it as gold that is tried in a furnace. Assure me, that every branch that beareth fruit, thou purgest, that it may bring forth more fruit! Enable me to say with thy servant, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I have kept thy word." May that grace strengthen me, that I may glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience a hope that maketh not ashamed. Lead me closer to thy throne, as the only place where I may find abiding help in every hour of need. Grant, merciful Father, that my troubles may lead me to sympathise with all who suffer in mind, body, or estate; remembering them that are in bonds, as being bound with them; and them that suffer adversity, as being myself also in the body. Lord, cause my sorrows, which indeed are but for a moment, to wean me from the vanities and wickedness of earth, to prepare me for eternity, and to work out for me an eternal weight of glory: and vouchsafe to me, in all of them, the consoling thought, that though the earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, I have

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a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Grant, O Lord, that the impenitent, when they suffer affliction, may be so influenced by it as afterwards to reap the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Let them not despise thy chastenings, nor faint when they are rebuked of thee. Show them that unless they repent, these are but the beginnings of sorrows, that shall know no relief and no end. Convince them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Lead them to repent and forsake the error of their ways, and to turn unto him who maketh all things work tōgether for good to them that love him.

These prayers I offer through the prevailing name of Jesus; to whom, with the Father and Spirit, be all honour and rule forever.

ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF GOD

Sovereign of the Universe, the heaven of heavens cannot contain thy fulness. Thou art the infinite source of blessedness. Giving doth not impoverish thee, neither doth withholding make thee rich. It is in thee that my weakness is made strength, and the iniquities of my heart removed. O Lord, let a full persuasion of thy boundless sufficiency fill my heart, that I may forsake the broken cisterns of human happiness, and go to the fountain of living waters. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Be thou more precious to me than music to the ear, or light to the eye, or fragrance to the smell, or sweetness to the taste, or friendship to the heart. Make thy love my continual feast. May I commit all my wants and trials to thee; may I be encouraged in the midst of danger and distress; be persuaded that infinite wisdom and goodness govern

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all thy dealings; and be led to persevere in faith and prayer, until the vision of hope be exchanged for thine open presence, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore!"

ANGELS.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments; hearkening unto the voice of his word! Great God, do thou exalt my intellect and purify my heart by meditations on the nature, character, and employments of the angels in heaven. Lo! they are an innumerable company of pure spirits; to whom thou hast given an endless life; endowing them richly with knowledge, power, holiness, and love. They dwell forever in thy presence; where their eyes are never dim with tears, nor their minds clouded by ignorance; where their affections are never wounded by grief, nor their hopes broken by disappointment, nor their hearts stained with guilt. And there they do thy holy pleasure with all the heart, and without delay, and continually.

I thank thee that thou hast revealed to us that these exalted beings sympathize deeply in the welfare of the children of men. The incarnate Son of God was proclaimed to the shepherds of Bethlehem by the angel of the Lord, with the message of glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: and a multitude of the heavenly host, that sang together over man's creation, and mourned over his fall, praised God in an anthem of good-will to man. And now, though it is their privilege to scan widely the wonders of creation, and search deeply into the mysteries of providence; though they find ample employment and delight in the reciprocal joys of

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their own blessed fraternity of wisdom, holiness, and love—though they dwell in the absorbing and vivifying transports of the open vision of the Most High—yet there is joy in their presence *over one sinner that repenteth!*

Lord, teach me the value of that scheme of redemption which the angels desire to look into. There they learn the dignity of thy law, the rigour of thy justice, the immutability of thy truth, the depravity of man, the peril of his guilt, and the glory of thy mercy. O God, suffuse my heart with shame, that the plan of repentance and salvation, in which thou hast condensed the perfections of thy character, for the adoring wonder and excited love of perfect spirits, should be so often to my soul only as a dream when one awaketh!

Gracious Lord, I praise thy mercy which sends forth these messengers of thy power and grace, to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. Grant, I beseech thee, in the name of Jesus, that I may belong to those children of adoption, whose beds they watch, whose hearts they comfort, and whose ways they protect.

Heavenly Father, prepare me for fellowship with that blessed throng, when the season of my earthly probation shall close. Enable me now, according to the feebleness of human nature, to do thy will as it is done in heaven. And when, at the end of the world, the reapers shall come forth to gather the tares in bundles, to burn them, but the wheat into the barn, grant that I may be garnered with thy saints; and that I may have my spirit made perfect in the everlasting communion of the sons of God!

God of Justice, admonish my fear of the guilt and punishment of sin by the awful example of those

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rebel angels, who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, and are reserved in everlasting chains, under darkness, until the judgment of the great day. Preserve me, I pray thee, from the power of that spirit that now worketh in the hearts of the children of disobedience. Help me to wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and to bruise Satan under my feet, in the strength of the God of peace.

ANGER.

Lord, strengthen me by thy grace, that I may restrain and conquer my propensities to unholy anger. Let it not cloud my brow, nor envenom my tongue, nor vex my heart. Let gentleness, courtesy, and kindness spread themselves, like the green covering of earth, over my character and conduct. Teach me that he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city; and that he who is hasty of spirit exalteth folly, and shall suffer punishment. Show me that a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up strife. He that soweth to the wind shall reap the whirlwind; but the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. May I consider him who endured the contradiction of sinners, and seek not to avenge myself, but rather give place to wrath. Let me do nothing in rashness and strife. Enable me, in the exercise of candour, forbearance, meekness, and forgiveness, to disarm every temptation to sinful passion, and to cause the wrath of my adversaries to praise thee.

Source of Wisdom, instruct me how I may be angry and sin not. Let me not be indignant without cause and above cause. Give me a holy dis-

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pleasure against transgression; but let it be mingled with a reclaiming pity towards the transgressor; and be exercised for his good and thy glory.

APPRENTICES.

O thou, who art Lord and Master over all, bless thou our youth who are held at service as apprentices. Instead of the apathy that prevails respecting them, do thou excite in the community, and especially in the church, a strong solicitude for this class of our population; who, in the lapse of a few years, will become the muscles and sinews of society; and who are now moulding their own characters for time and eternity. Lord, bring such influences to bear on them, that they may be fitted, in mind and in morals, for usefulness to society; and that they may be prepared for thy favour both on earth and in heaven.

Heavenly Father, teach them the duties of their station. Make them contented with their circumstances; industrious in their callings; faithful, in all things, to the interests of their masters; and obedient to every requisition of lawful service. And may they be persuaded that the discharge of all these duties is demanded as much by their own welfare, as by the interests of those whom they serve.

Lord, secure for them the kindness of their masters. Let their personal comforts, their instruction in business, their mental culture, their social habits, their moral character, and their religious opportunities, be objects of constant and conscientious attention.

Set before them, I pray thee, the dangers to which they are liable, by absence from the scrutiny and protection of the parental home; by frequent

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exposure to the seductions of ungodly associates, and by the tendencies to corruption in their own hearts. O do thou throw wholesome restraints around them. If sinners entice them, let them not consent to their persuasions. Make them flee youthful lusts, that war against the soul. Preserve them from every form and degree of temptation. Dispose and qualify them to discharge their present duties: incline and prepare them to fill with honour to themselves, and advantage to the public, their future positions in life: and, more than all else, give them the indenture of thine own service, in which thou makest the servant an heir, and the bondman a freeman of the Lord.

ASSURANCE.

Lord, grant me a well-grounded assurance of a personal interest in thy favour. Comfort me by the persuasion, that my many offences have been remitted. Enable me to gather satisfactory evidence from my feelings and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; and may thy Spirit bear witness with mine, that I am numbered with thy children. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of Christ, that I may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Cause me to feel that it is my duty to aim at the attainment of this grace, and my privilege to enjoy it, in the exercise of faith, prayer, and zeal. Enable me to say—"Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away; and thou comfortest me."

Blessed God, grant me the full assurance of hope unto the end:—a hope that I am accepted before thee, for the merits of Christ; that through his grace

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I shall be saved; and that though worms may devour this body, yet in my flesh I shall see thee, and be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness.

ATHEISM.

Great God, regard with pity the fool, who hath said in his heart, "There is no God!" Although thou hast written thy name in language of fire, on the canopy of heaven; and revealed thy being in the countless creations of air, earth, and sea—yet there are some of thy creatures, who profess to believe that thou art not! Though thou mayest be known by the judgments thou executest; and though human consciousness, in its universal consent, has been a memorial of thee, through all generations—they would vainly persuade themselves that thou art but the empty dream of religious fancy! O Lord, let this outrage upon knowledge, and holiness, and hope, make me cling, with a closer grasp, to the instructive, and purifying, and hopeful truth, that thy kingdom ruleth over all. Gracious Parent, how cheerless would this earthly probation be to my spirit, if I did not know that thou art Alpha and Omega. Lord, let the fact that any could be so lost to reason and piety, as to deny thy being, be strong testimony before the world of the depravity of the carnal mind; which, in all its various degrees of sentiment, is still enmity against God! O, if it be consistent with thy justice, recover these children of disobedience to the wisdom of the just; and lead them to adore and trust in thee, as the living God.

Lord, commiserate those who, while they acknowledge thee in their judgments, deny thee in their lives: and who, in the midst of thy presence, are without God in the world! They will not re

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tain thee in their knowledge, nor follow thy ways, nor seek thy favour. Give them not over to a reprobate mind, to be filled with all unrighteousness; but do thou bring them, in the living way of thy Son, to know, and love, and glorify thee as God.

O Most High, does not practical atheism leaven my own heart, and the hearts of many that call on thy name? For when we do what we know to be wrong in thy sight, and leave undone what we know thou hast commanded us to do, we virtually say, "Who is the Lord, that we should obey him?" I pray thee, rebuke this unrighteousness; and banish every vestige of it from us; until our hearts shall know, and our works shall proclaim, in all things, the power of thy life!

ATONEMENT.

God of Salvation, I thank and adore thee that in the counsels of eternity thou didst devise a plan by which rebellious, guilty, and hell-deserving man might receive thy forgiveness, be reconciled to thee, and enjoy thy favour; and that in the fulness of time thou didst finish thy decree of mercy, by sending thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. O it was matchless compassion that made the ruins of our apostasy the theatre on which to display the wonders of redeeming love! When we lay in the open field, and were polluted in our own blood, thou didst bid us live: yea, thou didst bid us live! Scarcely for a righteous man would one die; peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die: but thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Thou didst set him forth to be a propitiation, through

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faith in his blood, for the remission of sins, in order that thou mightest be just, and be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Make me understand that it was his divinity that made this offering a perfect work: for Lebanon was not sufficient to burn; nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering; nor could the fruit of the body atone for the sin of the soul: but lo! the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin!

Lord, may I have an ever-present conviction that there is no other name by which I can be saved. May I seek redemption only through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Purge thou my conscience from dead works to serve the living God; and may I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live not unto myself, but unto him. Let the blessings of this atonement rest on me, in sins pardoned, in punishment averted, in fear pacified, in the soul reconciled, in the heart sanctified, and in the spirit made joyful in an endless hope. O Lord, grant that at last I may be found among those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

O may there be many, who shall go into all the world, and preach this blessed gospel to every creature. May men every where learn their guilt and danger, and see the fitness of the Saviour thou hast provided for them. May multitudes thirst after righteousness, and be led to that fountain which has been opened in the house of David, where whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Grant, in thy mercy, that all the ends of the earth may look unto Christ, and be saved.—[*See* Jesus Christ.]

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AUTUMN.

O thou that makest the seasons, and crownest them with thy goodness, give ear to the thanksgivings and entreaties which I now offer thee in the name of Jesus. I praise thee that thou hast preserved me amid the heat and diseases of the past summer. I thank thee for the fruits of the earth which have already been gathered, and for those which still burden the fields with the promise of plenty. The whole face of nature speaks thy praise, and bears witness to thy bounty.

Lord, what is man, that thou hast been thus mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Instead of continuing health and sparing life, thou mightest have brought over us the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. Instead of making the earth to bring forth and bud, that it might give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, thou couldst have made it more desolate than the wilderness, until the land had fainted by reason of the famine. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed: for thou art slow to anger and full of compassion; and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. O God, incline me to be merciful to others, even as thou hast been merciful to me. Dispose me, in my enjoyment of the abundance of the earth, to pity and relieve the wants of the needy; and deeply impress on my heart the lesson of gratitude which thou hast been striving to teach me by thy goodness.

Whilst thou art now changing the face of the declining year, and bringing over it the tokens of decay and death, O teach me that such are earthly hopes and human life. The fashion of this world

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passeth away; and we all do fade as a leaf. The grass withereth, and the flower fadeth; and all flesh is as grass, and all the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field. May these waning scenes lead me to seek that inheritance in light, where no sorrow shall wither, and no sin shall blast the fruit of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God!

Lord, instruct me that he who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and that he who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Let my Christian experience be like the fruit of the earth, which bringeth forth first the blade, then the ear, and after that, the full corn in the ear: and then, O Lord, when thy harvest is come, put in thy sickle, and gather me, as a shock of corn cometh in his season, into thy heavenly garner. And the praise of my salvation shall be unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost forever.

BACKSLIDING.

O thou, who through Christ, art rich in mercy to all who call upon thee, preserve me, I pray thee, against backsliding from the ways of grace. Let not my infirmities and corruptions lead me back to the love of the world. Suffer not the temptations by which I am surrounded to draw me away from my love and allegiance to thee. Teach me to avoid the appearance of evil, and to watch against the earliest and least encroachments of sin, both in the heart and in the life. Let me not fall into the occasional nor habitual neglect of public or private duties. Permit me not to substitute formality for the spirit of devotion; nor insincerity for truth of heart; nor vain glory for good will to man; nor error for

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the truth of God. Keep me, O Lord, from open transgression, and from degrading thy cause in the eyes of a gainsaying world, by an unholy walk and conversation. And show me that if any man draw back, thy soul has no pleasure in him.

Grant, merciful Father, that when my feet fall into snares, and slide in the way of evil, thy grace may be sufficient for that hour of need. Bring me back from all my wanderings, and may the memory of them make me humble and watchful. Forgive my backslidings, restore me to thy favour, set my feet upon the rock, establish my goings in thy strength, and dispose me to press on towards the mark, for the prize of my high calling. Lord, let me not be of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe, unto the saving of the soul.

BENEVOLENCE.

Father of Mercies, fill my heart with ever-living sympathies for the wants and woes of all my fellow-creatures. Make me merciful even as thou, Heavenly Father, art merciful. May I desire more the blessing of them that are ready to perish, than the favour of the wise, and rich, and mighty. Make me the steward of thy bounty; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. Incline me to practice that economy which will enable me to give to him that needeth. May I remember that whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, the love of God dwelleth not in him.

Gracious God, sanctify my motives in all the exercises of charity. Let them not be done to be seen of men, nor as acts of self-righteousness. I would do good, that I may enjoy the testimony of

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an approving conscience, and find it more blessed to give than to receive. May I regard benevolence as the means of improving the heart, and making the character like that of Jesus. I would remember, too, that thou lovest a cheerful giver. Help me, O God, to make thy glory the end of all my benevolence.—Dispose me to do good, as I have opportunity, in all my spheres of life. May I be eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, health to the sick, strength to the feeble, help to the needy, and comfort to the mourner. But above all, may my desires and zeal go forth for the spiritual wants of mankind. Let not indolence, selfishness, nor unbelief steel my heart against the claims of those who live regardless of thy will, and of those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. Lord, make me an humble yet honoured instrument in thy hand, of spreading the knowledge of thy truth, and of turning sinners from the error of their ways, unto the wisdom of the just.

BIBLE.—*See Scriptures.*

BIRTH-DAY.

O thou Giver and Preserver of Being, I would lift up my thanksgivings to thee for having continued and blessed my life through another year. Here I would raise my Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me." I would look back with mingled feelings of wonder and love on the way in which thou hast led me, ever since the dawn of my existence. If thou hadst measured unto me according to my deserts, my days of probation would long ago have been ended, and I should now be reaping the fruits of sin in the world of despair. But, thanks

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be unto thee, thy mercy rejoiced against judgment; and I, who might have been a monument of thy justice, am a witness that thou art long-suffering and abundant in goodness.

Lord, accept my gratitude for the many tokens of thy favour which I have enjoyed since my last birthday. I thank thee for my food and raiment, my home and friends, my health and my countless comforts. I praise thee that the means of grace—the institution of prayer, the worship of thy sanctuary, the oracles of truth, the fellowship of saints, have all been continued unto me. And to all these thou hast added the teaching, and sanctifying, and rejoicing influences of thy Holy Spirit. Lord, thou hast crowned my year with thy goodness, and thy paths in it have dropped fatness.

O God, help me to ponder and fulfil the duties of heart and action which lie before me in the untravelled and uncertain, but important period of time, on which I am now entering. I may have numbered the last year of my existence; and ere the present one shall have finished its brief circle, time may be to me no more, and the state of my soul be unalterably fixed. Make me thoughtful of death and eternity; and yet suffer me not to forget, that while it is still day, and before the night cometh, in which no man can work, thou hast appointed unto me spheres of duty, which thou requirest me to occupy until thy coming. Give me, I beseech thee, in Christ Jesus, an eye of wisdom to discern, and a heart of love to do, all the requirements of thy blessed will. And if it be thy pleasure to prolong my years, may I look back on them as spent in thy service, and say, "For me to live is Christ!" But if thou wilt bring my season of trial to an end, O

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grant that I may be able to say, with exulting joy, "For me to die is gain!"

BIGOTRY.

God of Truth, preserve my understanding and heart from the influence of bigotry. While I am not permitted to tolerate dangerous error, nor connive at heresy, keep me from ignorant perversity and blind obstinacy in defending my own opinions; and from unkindness and intolerance towards those from whom I differ in sentiment. Suffer me not to mistake prejudice for the love of truth, nor malice for true zeal. Lord, if this root of bitterness be in my spirit, (and who among the children of men is free from it?) O, do thou take it utterly away: and in its place implant a vine whose branches will cling in love, and whose fruits will hang in plenty, on every object in its reach. May I sincerely desire the success of all who labour for the glory of God and the welfare of souls. Restore, O Lord, the spirit of harmony in all the divisions of the household of faith; so that thy watchmen may see eye to eye, and thy saints, of every name, dwell in the unity of the Spirit.

BLESSING OF GOD.

Great God, I desire to feel that without thy blessing, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow with it, all that I now possess, and all I hope to enjoy, will be barren and worthless. Thou only canst make my possessions and pursuits answer the purposes of wisdom and goodness. Lord, bless thou my waking and sleeping hours; my seasons of retirement and intercourse; my daily food and daily duties; my joys and sorrows; my prosperity and

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adversity; my rest and labour; my praises and prayers; my thoughts, words, and actions; my hopes; my all. Whatsoever thou mayest deny me, grant me thy favour which is life, and thy loving-kindness which is better than life. Let me not undertake nor prosecute any thing on which I cannot ask thee to set the seal of thine approbation. May I turn away from every thing which I may judge to be repugnant to thy will. Especially may I feel, in my religious duties, that neither is he that planteth any thing, nor he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. If thou vouchsafe not thy favour, the heaven that is over my head shall be as brass, and the earth that is under my feet shall be as iron. Without thee I can do nothing; for in myself my strength is weakness, my wisdom is folly, and my goodness is as the morning cloud and the early dew. But I praise thee that my sufficiency is of God, and that I can do all things through Christ strengthening me. Endue me, I beseech thee, with power from on high; and make thy strength perfect in my weakness.

O Lord, bestow thine abiding sanction and thy richest blessing upon the various efforts of thy church. Give them abundant success. Make them all works of faith and labours of love. Let "Glory to God in the highest, on earth, peace and good-will to men," be inscribed on every motive and every exertion of Christian zeal. Cast down every obstacle, and subdue every enemy. O, do thou remove all the woes and vices that afflict humanity and in their stead, bring thou the peace and purity of the precious gospel, which are the sure and satisfying tokens of that holy blessedness which fills the courts of thine upper sanctuary. Lord, give thes

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petitions gracious audience through Christ the Saviour; and dispose me to ascribe unto the King, immortal, eternal, and invisible, all the praise and dominion, now, henceforth, and forever.

BLIND.

O thou, who hast formed the eye to be the light of the body, look mercifully on the blind; in whom thou hast sealed up, in rayless darkness, one of man's chief avenues of knowledge and pleasure. Lord, I would acknowledge my ingratitude to thee for the blessing of eyesight; and my indifference towards those, from whom, in thine inscrutable wisdom, thou hast withheld it. I pray thee that when I look upon the cheerful scenes of nature, and share in the pleasant fellowship of social life, and drink in precious knowledge from the leaves of human and holy writ, that then I may remember thee, the giver of these perfect gifts, and those also, whom thou hast deprived of them.

Lord, I thank thee that whilst thou hast denied to them the light of the *eye*, thou hast bestowed on them an increased and wonderful sense of *touch:* and that the ingenuity and benevolence of men have taken advantage of this provision of thy mercy, to restore, in part, the priceless boons of intelligence and joy. I pray thee so to improve the healing art, that many, very many, of these children of darkness may be brought into the open light of day: but do thou put within the reach and use of those whose sight no skill can restore, the means that are now employed for giving them, in the mysterious language of the fingers, the pages of intellectual and saving wisdom.

But O, let thy chief compassion to them be, to

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shine into their hearts, to give them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ: in whom, though now they see him not, neither the works of his hands, yet believing, may they rejoice with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of faith, even the salvation of their souls.

Lord, regard with pity those blind, who have eyes that will not see; and who love darkness, because their deeds are evil; and who will not come to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved. Unscale, I beseech thee, their inward sight; remove every film of vice; and grant that in thy light they may see light!

BROTHERLY LOVE.

O thou, who art the fountain of love, fill my heart with strong affections for all that are of the household of faith. May I keep that message that we had from the beginning—that we should love one another. He who doeth this abideth in light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him; but he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? May I regard thy people as lively stones of thy spiritual house; as partners with me in the trials of life, and in the grace of God; as members of thy family on earth, and of thy heritage in heaven. Lord, grant me that testimony of having passed from death unto life, which flows from love to the brethren.

Lord of Hosts, may all thy saints love each other, not in word nor in tongue only, but in deed and in truth. Show them how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. May they be

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kind one to another, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven them. May brotherly love continue, through evil report, as well as good report. Dispose them to suffer long, to hope all things, to believe all things. May they bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Show them, O Lord, that the success of thy kingdom among the ungodly, the peace and joy of the fold of Christ, and the enduring favour of Jehovah, depend on their loving one another, out of pure hearts, fervently. Let this grace be as the dew of heaven, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; where the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

BUSINESS.

Lord, dispose me to act according to thy will, and in reference to thy glory, in all my worldly business. I thank thee for that law of my nature, by which thou hast connected my happiness and usefulness, with the employment of my body and mind in the duties of life. Let all my avocations be lawful in thy sight. Give me a calm mind and moderate prosperity in the pursuit of them; or grant me patience under disappointed efforts. O let not mere selfishness be the motive nor end of my labour. May I desire to fulfil in myself the benevolent purposes of thy providence, in giving me an active nature; and to make my employments promote the temporal and spiritual interests of mankind. Make me diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord: so that whether I eat, or drink, or whatever I do, I may do it for thy glory.

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CENSORIOUSNESS.

Lord, preserve me from the spirit of censoriousness. Guard me against an intermeddling, rash, or uncharitable judgment on the conduct of my fellow-creatures. May I do unto others in this matter, as I would they should do unto me. May I remember that with what measure I mete, it shall be measured to me again. Let me not judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment. Whenever I am tempted to behold the mote that is in my brother's eye, may I consider the beam that is in mine own eye. Show me my own weakness and sinfulness. Dispose me to think no evil of any, and to maintain a good opinion of all, until I have proved all things. Incline me always to pray for the forgiveness of the offence, and for the welfare of the offender. And when it becomes my duty to censure others, may I do it, not in anger nor pride of heart, but in sorrow, and with a desire to do good.

CHARITY.

Giver of all Good, grant me that fruit of the Spirit which is love. May this be the element where my soul will live, and move, and have its being. O, may I feel that if I could speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal: though I should bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Lord, grant that thy holy commandment, and the countless examples of thy good-will, and the various wants of my fellow-creatures, may be heart-stirring motives to this law of kindness. And especially

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may the love of Christ constrain me to love my neighbour as myself. Make it a bond of perfectness, and the end of the commandment; springing out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. May this grace preserve me from envy, censoriousness, and ill-will, and so mould my temper and character, that I shall be meek and forbearing, disinterested and self-denying, and steadfast and kind in all my intercourse with mankind. Blessed God, let it not be bounded by narrow limits, but be as expansive as the length and breadth of the world, and take into the bosom of its sympathies the whole family of man.

O thou, Sovereign of Destinies, hasten that time when charity shall fill the hearts and control the conduct of all men; when anger, and malice, and revenge shall have fled away forever; when nations shall learn war no more, and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shall reign over an undisturbed empire of love.

CHASTITY.

Preserve me, O Holy One, from impurity in thought, in word, and in action. Grant that a sense of thy holiness and thine omniscience may so rest upon me, that I may walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. May I set a watch upon my lips, that no double meaning nor corrupt communication may proceed out of my mouth; and suffer me not to take pleasure in, but to abhor and turn away from, the language of indelicacy and lasciviousness on the tongues of others. Help me to make a covenant with my eyes, that they may not dwell on unlawful objects, nor pamper forbidden wishes. Throw a guard round my heart, that it may not de-

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vise wicked imaginations. Teach me to loathe and flee from these beginnings of evil, which debase the spirit, enfeeble the mind, and drown the soul in perdition. Enable me to put away uncleanness, and to glorify thee in my body and spirit, which are thine.

God of Justice, enter not into judgment with our land for the foul impurity which covers it. If thou wert strict to mark its iniquity, thou wouldst bring over it the besom of desolation, and make it a monument of reproach. O lead us, in thy mercy, to the use of such measures as shall subvert the dominion of licentiousness, and establish purity of heart, speech, and conduct. Lord, thou knowest whether the means which have been employed, by social and open action, for the suppression of that destroying vice, are according to thy holy will. If they are, O give them abundant success. But if they are not, cause them to be laid aside, and teach thy people what they may do that will secure thy blessing. Correct, elevate, and inform public opinion in relation to the destroying evils of lewdness. Put under the ban of universal condemnation the unchaste word, the licentious song, the impure page, the lascivious dance, and the dissolute play-house. Make the libertine a scorn and reproach in every society. O preserve those who are still pure; and let them not go down the pathways of disgrace and destruction. Convince and alarm those whose name is clean in the eyes of the world, but whose thoughts cherish unholy emotions, and whose hearts work uncleanness greedily. Recover those who have listened to the song of the syren, and who go as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life: who think not that many strong men

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have been slain by her, and that her house is the chambers of death, and that her guests are in the depths of hell. Cleanse our land and the world from this vile leprosy which destroys health, and happiness, and virtue: and bring over it a reformation that shall be total abstinence from impurity of every name.

CHEERFULNESS.

Lord, make cheerfulness the habit of my temper. Enable me to pursue the happy mean between that mirth, the end of which is heaviness, and that sullenness, which is a canker upon personal comfort, a reproach upon social character, and a libel on divine goodness. Let not my spirit be soured by disappointment; nor be dejected by misfortune; nor be made morose by hostility. May I regard these as light afflictions, compared with a peevish and gloomy temper: which will corrupt my own pleasures, shed mildew on all my associations in life, and disparage thy grace. Show me that a cheerful mind will diffuse gladness over my pathways, scatter pleasure around those who journey with me, and glorify the mercy of God.

Gracious Parent, speak to me—"Son, be of *good cheer:* thy sins are forgiven thee." O how light would the crosses, and afflictions, and disasters of earth weigh on me, if I were conscious of guilt forgiven, and peace with heaven! Lord, grant that whilst I drink gladness from all the lawful sources of comfort around me, I may draw from the wells of salvation a living water, which the world can neither give nor take away.

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CHILDREN.

Lord, I thank thee that thou dost suffer little children to come unto thee, and that thou dost ordain praise out of the mouths of babes and sucklings. I would praise thee that thy saving truth, while it is fitted to fill the minds of angels with the most exalted knowledge, can be learned, and understood, and felt by children; and that many such have known its power, and have spoken in their feeble accents of its excellence, both in their life and death, and are now enjoying the fruits of its redemption in the courts above. Lord, for the sake of the compassionate and prevailing Redeemer, increase that cloud of witnesses. May many remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and increase in wisdom and in favour with God. Be thou the guide of their youth, and satisfy them early with thy mercies, that they may rejoice and be glad all the days of their lives.

God of Grace, I would praise thee for what thou hast done and art doing, through the labours of thy people, for the rising generation. Multiply the number and increase the efficacy of these efforts. Enable parents to make an unreserved dedication of their offspring to the Lord, and train them up in the way they should go, that when they are old, they shall not depart from it. May all who have any influence over youth, devote their most zealous labours that they may be made wise unto salvation, through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. And grant, I pray thee, that thy Church may regard them as the hope of the world, and bend all her energies of faith, and love, and zeal, that the rising generation may be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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Heavenly Father, incline the hearts of children to fulfil their duties to their parents. Teach them that they are bound by the laws of natural affection, and the ties of gratitude, to honour their father and mother—which is also the will of God, and the first commandment with promise. O, how often are the authority and peace of parents disregarded or violated by those for whom they have spent their property, and time, and anxieties; and to whom they have looked for comfort and support in declining age. Lord, do thou make every child feel its obligations to keep its father's commandment, and to forsake not the law of its mother; but to bind them continually upon the heart, and to obey them in reverence and love.

Gracious Parent, look in mercy, I pray thee, on the ungodly children of the church. Lord, shall it be that many shall come from the north, and from the south, and from the east, and from the west, and sit down in the kingdom of heaven, while the children of the kingdom shall be cast out? Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, until they shall all be households of faith.—But do thou regard, in special compassion, the impenitent offspring of the pious dead. Startle in their memory the echoes of long forgotten parental instructions; bring to their remembrance the images of long neglected examples of parental godliness. And, O let the prayers of these saints, which are kept by thee as odours in golden vials, be poured out before thee, until spirits redeemed shall see of the travail of their souls, and rejoice over their offspring, born again to an endless life.—[*See* EARLY PIETY, SABBATH SCHOOLS YOUTH.]

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CHRISTMAS.

Heavenly Father, assist me to exercise those feelings of grateful devotion which are suitable to this day, which has been set apart by so many of thy followers, in memory of the birth of thy well-beloved Son. Grant me enlarged and soul-moving views of all that relates to the glorious plan of salvation through a Redeemer.

Unfold to my mind, I beseech thee, the deep depravity and lost estate into which our guilty race had fallen. The whole head was sick, and the whole heart faint: and from the sole of the foot even unto the head, there was no moral soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores! All flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth; and the whole world was guilty before God. Lord, thou wast angry with the wicked every day: thy curse was in their house; and thy wrath treasured up for them perdition in the day of thy wrath. O, if thou hadst not laid help upon One, mighty to save, all men would have had their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Gracious God, make me sensible of that love whereby thou didst give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life—and which thou hast commended to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though thou hast shown thy loving-kindness in the works of creation, and in the developements of providence, in this thou hast gathered, as into a bright and burning centre, the matchless proof of thy good-will to man. O, the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge!

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Lord, make me to know the excellencies of Christ's glory, and the depths of his humiliation. Though he dwelt in the bosom of the Father, and inhabited the praises of eternity, and exercised the powers of the Godhead, yet he took upon him our sinful nature, was born in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; and was buried, and continued under the power of death for a time. Teach me that he was thus made sin for me, that I might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O God, show me that though he thus gave his life a ransom for many, still there is none who can have redemption through his blood, without the convincing, renewing, and sanctifying power of thy grace. Lord, make me know my sin, and my need of a Saviour; dispose me to turn away from all my transgressions, and to lay hold of the hope set before me in the gospel.

Lord, impress on my heart the features of Christ's lovely and perfect character. May I learn of him who was meek and lowly, kind and patient, obedient and forgiving, wise and holy. Let the same mind which was in him be also in me. Show me that he is glorified in the bodies and spirits of them whom thou hast given to him; and that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. May the grace which has brought salvation, teach me to deny ungodliness and to work righteousness; that his image, destroyed by the fall, may be re-renewed in me, and that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in my mortal flesh.

God of Grace; excite my faith in this blessed Saviour, by clear visions of that heavenly glory

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which he has prepared for those that love him. O, thanks be unto thy name, thou hast not only redeemed thy saints from the wretched dominion of sin and the fearful penalties of guilt, but thou hast given them thine unfailing promise, that they shall go into life eternal, and dwell before thy throne, and serve thee day and night in thy temple. Lord, grant that through his merits, an entrance may be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, persuade the ungodly, who are rejecting the Saviour, that without his atoning righteousness their souls must endure the perdition of eternal death; while through his blood they may have remission of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Reconcile them unto thyself, through him; not imputing their trespasses unto them. O dispose them to join with fulness of heart, that heavenly anthem, which heralded his birth in our nature—"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good-will towards men!"

CHURCH.

Great Shepherd of Israel, I thank thee that thou hast established thy church on the earth, and hast put the seal of thy redeeming grace on it, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I would praise thee that he who is thy fulness, has been made head over all things to his church, which is his body, and which he has redeemed by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Lord, dispose me to sustain all the relations which I bear to thy heritage. Suffer me not to withdraw, in any degree, from the fellowship of the saints, in

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their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. Thou hast commanded that fellowship; thou hast adapted it to our social nature; thou hast made it the stream of our consolation, the wall of our safety, and the field of our usefulness. May I love to seek thy face in the tabernacles of the righteous, and to worship thee there in spirit and in truth. May I cherish the reputation, and welcome the instructions, and encourage the labours of those whom thou hast set to minister in holy things. Lead me, O Lord, to seek the interest of thy church, in its purity, peace, knowledge, and universal dominion.

Lord, cause all thy people to strive for the welfare of Zion. May they mourn over her desolations, and rejoice when her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. Baptize them by one spirit, into one body; and make them all one in Christ Jesus. May they feel deeply humbled at their want of personal holiness, and at their neglect in extending the blessings of salvation to a perishing world. Let every one that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity. May the sons of God be blameless, and harmless, and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; among whom may they shine, as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Make them a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Let utterance be given to them, that they may open their mouths boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. Let not the ingratitude nor hostility of sinners discourage their efforts to win them to thy service. May they have the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands, and multitudes added to their number, of such as shall be saved.

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Arise, and have mercy on Zion: let the time to favour her, yea, the set time come. Bring her up from the wilderness, leaning on her Beloved; and make her the perfection of beauty. When her enemy comes in like a flood, do thou lift up a standard against him. Be thou as a wall of fire round about her, and a glory in the midst of her. Hast thou not purchased her with thy blood; and wilt thou not grave her on the palms of thy hands, and set her walls continually before thee? O, King of Kings, do thou marshal, and discipline, and strengthen, and multiply the sacramental host, and lead it on conquering and to conquer, until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

CITIES.

Heavenly Father, remember in special mercy, I beseech thee, the cities of this land, and of the world. It was in such that Christ sought continually, in the days of his ministry on earth, to proclaim his words of life. And it was to such that his apostles resorted, when commanded to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. O Lord, there thou hast poured out, from generation to generation, the most copious effusions of thy Holy Spirit; and hast built up many, very many, churches in the beauty of holiness.

Gracious God, excite an earnest solicitude in the hearts of the pious, on behalf of our populous places. May they realize that in these dwell the potent influences of wealth, intelligence, commerce, and numbers, which control the wide country for good

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or evil; and that out of them go streams that poison or heal the veins of social life throughout the land. Teach thy people that there are the strongholds of vice, where the adversary of souls stations his choicest legions, and establishes his dominion in the nation. Show them that if his power could be subverted in the midst of these crowded marts, his sceptre would be broken, and his throne be shaken to its foundations.

O God, make thy followers appreciate the facilities that are there afforded for procuring the triumph of the gospel. In these thou hast gathered a large proportion of the human race, and hast put their dwellers within the reach of Christian exertion for their salvation. There thou hast planted the institutions of religious benevolence, which, like trees of life, are shedding their leaves for the healing of the nations. And Lord, the wealth of our cities can furnish the means, and their numbers the men, that shall carry to all the earth's inhabitants the messages of mercy.

Lord, bless all the instrumentalities that are now employed for the conversion of these places. Bring all their youthful population into Sabbath-schools, and into the nurture of the Lord. May personal Christian effort be brought to bear, in prayerful reliance on thy help, on every impenitent heart. Increase and give universal application to the power of the Christian ministry: and roll on the chariot of thy gospel amidst these dense congregations of life, until each place shall shadow forth the holiness and joy of that city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God!

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COMMUNION WITH GOD.

A O thou that hearest prayer, grant that I may hold communion of spirit with thee, the Father of Spirits. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may my soul pant after thee: and as the parched land drinketh in the rain of heaven, so let my soul receive the gifts of thy presence. Dispose me to be faithful and to delight in the observance of stated seasons of private devotion, and in the frequent exercises of occasional prayer. May I love to seek thee in the tabernacles of the righteous. Let my thoughts and desires hold intercourse with thee in thy word, and in thy works, and in thy ways. Let my walk be close with thee; and do thou fix my affections on thee, as the highest and noblest object of love. Teach me thy will, that I may acquaint myself with thee, and be at peace.

B Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. Draw near to me in all my attempts to approach thee; and manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world. Sprinkle reconciling blood on the altar where I meet thee. Kindle with heavenly fire the incense I bring thee, and let it rise up as a sweet-smelling savour before thee. Make thine abode with me; and let my heart be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Give me that spirit of adoption by which I may cry, "Abba, Father." May I be persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus. Give me such a sense of pardoned sin, as shall fill me with holy joys, and strong purposes of new obedience to thy will. Grant me, in these seasons of sweet converse with thee, those

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blessings which are spiritual [~~in their nature,~~] satisfying [~~in their possession,~~] and eternal [~~in their continuance.~~] Cause me, in the enjoyment of them, to commiserate the destitution of those who are without God in the world, and the wo of them who are shut out from thy presence forever. O let me cling closer to this precious privilege, and be pervaded with deeper pity, and animated with stronger zeal, for those who know not the delights of thy communion.

Lord, vouchsafe that my fellowship with thee may be sought only through him who is the way, the truth, and the life; for no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let the communion of thy Holy Spirit rest upon me, and abide within me, now, henceforth and forever.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

Heavenly Father, dispose me, in gladness and singleness of heart, to keep the fellowship of the saints. May I have more relish for their company, though they may be poor and unhonoured, than for intercourse with those who are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Make my communion with them pleasant and profitable to my soul; and do thou come and be in the midst of us, to bless us. Let our bonds of union have the strength and beauty of those that bind the happy throng above, in their perpetual fellowship of bliss. May I feel that we are all children of the same Parent; brethren of the same family; subjects of the same discipline of trials and duties; and heirs of the same inheritance beyond the grave. Incline me to love their persons, their character, and their interests—rejoicing with them that do rejoice, and weeping with them that

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weep—ministering to their necessities—holding converse with them in the grace of God—seeking not to please myself, but bearing their infirmities and burdens—and so fulfilling the law of Christ, who hath given us a new commandment, that we love one another.

COMPANY.

Lord, teach me that my habits of life, and my reputation, will be determined by the company I keep. Make me ever mindful that evil communications are full of corruption, and that the companion of fools shall be destroyed. Make me holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. O let me not enter the path of the wicked, nor follow a multitude to do evil; and permit me not to conform, in any degree, to either the principles or practices of the ungodly. But when I am called, in the exercise of social or religious duties, among the impenitent, enable me to seek by kindness, and persuasion, and example, to win them to the obedience of faith. Make me, O Lord, a companion of them that fear thee and keep thy precepts. May I desire more the fellowship of them that are lowly and poor in spirit, than of those who are rich in this world's goods, while their hearts are strangers to the love of God. Preserve me, I pray thee, from every unholy association; and lead me to seek the communion of thy saints, that we may be comforted together, by our mutual faith. Suffer not my conduct, anywhere, to be a reproach on thy cause; but do thou bestow on me grace to occupy my station in the family, in society, and in the church, so as to promote thy glory in the sight of men.

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CONDESCENSION OF GOD.

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it, (but a little lower than the angels,) we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now, that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

CONFESSION.

Holy One of Israel, help me, I beseech thee, to confess before thee my unworthiness and ill-desert. To whom but to thee should I go with the recital of my transgressions; for it is against thee, thee

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only, I have sinned. Thou hast said that he who covereth his sins shall not prosper; while he who confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy. If I say, "I have no sin," I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me; but if I confess my sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive them, and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

O Lord, I have sinned against thee in doing what thou hast forbidden, and in leaving undone what thou hast commanded. I have transgressed thy law and gospel, in thought, word, and deed. I have sinned in childhood, in youth, and in riper years. I would acknowledge with shame and sorrow, my vanity and selfishness, my pride and hypocrisy, my impatience and unbelief, my self-indulgence and self-righteousness, my neglect of thy service and glory, and my living to myself, and not unto thee. How often has my heart rebelled against thy wholesome discipline in affliction, or impiously forgotten thy dispensing hand in the enjoyment of mercies. O, I have in countless instances, backslidden from thy love, broken my covenants with thee, and brought dishonour on thy name. I have rolled that as a sweet morsel under my tongue, which has filled heaven with solicitude, earth with desolation, and hell with anguish. And yet such has been the hardness of my heart, that I have mourned but little over such transgressions.

O Lord, these my sins have been protracted through long years which thou hast crowned with forbearance and mercy. They are heavy and black with enormous guilt, because they were committed in the midst of light and knowledge. My transgressions are more numerous than the hairs of my head; and if thou wert strict to mark one in a thou-

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sand of them, I could not stand before thee. My iniquities are increased over my head, and my trespasses are grown up to the heavens. Thou mightest justly cause that dark cloud to shut out the light of thy countenance; and gather there the thunders of thy wrath, and break them on my guilty head, with an overwhelming vengeance. Lord, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth, and put my mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope. God be merciful to me a sinner.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

O Lord, Jehovah, thou art the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Thou art boundless in wisdom, omnipotent in power, and infinite in goodness. Thou dost not withhold any good thing from him that walketh uprightly. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doth shall prosper; and the end of that man is peace.

Lord, if thou art my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? If thou art my strength, of whom shall I be afraid? Enable me, I pray thee, to trust in thee with all my heart; and keep me from leaning on my own understanding. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in perils, in wants, in losses, in griefs, in sickness, and in death. Cause me to hear thy voice, in every variety of tribulation, saying unto me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." I would remember that oft when I said, "My foot slippeth," thy mercy,

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O Lord, held me up. In the day when I cried, thou didst answer and strengthen me. May the memory of thy past goodness, the possession of present joys, and the testimonies of thy promises persuade me, that though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed.

Heavenly Father, give me confidence towards thee in the duty of prayer. May I come to thee as to a forgiving, a bountiful, a compassionate, a wise, and a powerful God—for thou only hast an eye of pardon, a hand of plenty, a heart of pity, a judgment of knowledge, and an arm of might. Assure me that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. Help me to ask in faith, nothing wavering.

God of Israel, inspire thy people with unlimited and unwavering reliance on thy character, dealings, and purposes. May they learn that the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Let them not cast away their confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. As thou didst not withhold thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for them, O cause them to hope that, with him, thou wilt freely give them all things. Lord, let them never forget that thou makest all things work together for good to them that love thee. Although the fig-tree may not blossom, neither fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive fail, and the fields yield no meat; the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet may they rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation. Thou canst make even the bed of death a couch of down; and the gloomy grave the cradle of immortality.

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CONSCIENCE.

God of Judgment, I thank thee that thou hast given me an inward monitor, to warn me against iniquity, and to smite me when I transgress. May I regard its testimony as a proof of a future judgment; when the righteous shall receive the recompense of reward, and the wicked the retribution of wo. Enable me, I pray thee, to nourish and culture this plant of thy hand. Show me that my happiness and welfare, and the enjoyment of thy life-giving countenance, will depend on the activity, strength, and purity of my conscience. If the light that is in me be darkness, how great is that darkness! May thy will, as exhibited in thy word, be the supreme rule of its actings. May thy Spirit cleanse it from error and sin, and animate it with right knowledge and holy power. Lord, give it peace through the justifying merits of Jesus Christ, and purge it from dead works to serve the living God. Make it tender and watchful, and a faithful index of thy sovereign will; that it may be void of offence towards God and man.

Lord, stimulate and give a wholesome vigour to the conscience of all men. May it exercise a controlling and righteous influence over their inmost thoughts and their outward actions. Teach them that though they may turn away from its testimonies, and stifle its chidings, yet there is a day coming when, if they continue impenitent, it will rise up in judgment against them; when he that sitteth upon the throne will confirm its testimony, by pronouncing the verdict "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

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CONSISTENCY.

Enable me, O Lord, through the grace of Jesus, to follow thee fully. May I act, in all things, worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called; and strive to be of those, who, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek eternal life. Thou art entitled to my full-hearted and consistent obedience. O may that obedience be without reserve, and without hypocrisy. Let me not call thee "Lord, Lord," and yet do not the things which thou sayest. Make my walk the index of my heart; and make my heart right in thy sight. Give me oil for my lamp, that when the Bridegroom cometh, I may go forth in joy to meet him. May I remember that he who gathereth not with thee, scattereth abroad. Let me never do evil that good may come. When I would do good, let not evil be present with me: let not the law in my members war against the law of my mind, and bring me into captivity to the law of sin. Permit me not to act so that the way of truth may be evil spoken of; nor that the friends of the gospel may be ashamed of me. Suffer not my vows to be as the fitful wind; nor my devotions as the changing cloud; nor my hopes as the early dew. I beseech thee to give me strength to cleave to thy service, steadfastly, in penury and in plenty, in persecution and in peace. May my light shine in evil report, and in good report. And, O Lord, let it be as the path of the just, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day.

CONTENTMENT.

Great Sovereign of heaven and earth, thou art infinitely wise and good, in all the allotments of

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thy providence. I pray thee, teach me in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. Keep me, O Lord, from envy, from avarice, from ambition, from anxiety, and from murmuring. May I remember it was discontent that brought death into the world, and all its woes. Make me content with such things as I have; for thou hast said thou wilt never leave nor forsake me, if I put my trust in thee. May mine be the prayer of Agur—"Give me neither poverty nor riches; lest I be full, and deny thee; or be poor, and steal, and take thy name in vain." Let me not forget that the love of money is the root of evil. They who will be rich fall into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Make my soul satisfied in the midst of losses and afflictions. May I be ever ready to say—"The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord."

Heavenly Father, discipline me so by thy grace, that I shall be careful for nothing, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. Let me not trust in uncertain riches; but in the living God, who giveth me all things richly to enjoy. Show me that human happiness consists not in the abundance of worldly treasure; but in godliness, which with contentment is great gain. I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies; wherefore then should I complain? I brought nothing into the world, and I can carry nothing out; let me therefore look not at things which are seen and temporal; but at things which are not seen, and that are eternal. May thy great and precious promises give me more comfort than the wicked have, when their corn and wine do most abound. Induce me, O Lord, to seek my portion

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where the righteous obtain joy and gladness, and where murmuring and sorrow shall flee away forever.

CONTRITION.

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer, grant me, for Christ's sake, that contrite heart, which in thy sight is of great price. Show me my guilt, as committed against thee, my Maker, Governor, and Benefactor. Lead me to abhor myself, and to repent in dust and ashes. May I look on him whom I have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness. Give me a deep consciousness that I deserve the curse of that law which I have violated. Lord, I would acknowledge my transgressions: O may my sins be ever before me.

I thank thee for thy promise, that thou wilt dwell with him that is of an humble and contrite heart. Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it. Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Prepare my heart for thine abode. According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out all my transgressions. Create within me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

CONVERSATION.—*See Tongue.*

CONVERSION.

Lord, I would come to thee, in the name of Christ, that I may learn the necessity, the nature, and the fruits of regeneration. O do thou fasten on my

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mind, abiding convictions that the carnal mind is enmity against thee, and that all mankind are by nature the children of wrath, and receive not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to them; neither can they learn them, for they are spiritually discerned. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Show me, O Lord, that if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; all things are become new. He has put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him who created him, in righteousness and true holiness. It is thou, God of Mercy, who workest in such to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure; not by works which they have done; but according to thy mercy; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. They are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God, who only giveth repentance unto life, and the earnest of that Spirit whereby they are sealed until the day of redemption.

Teach me, O Lord, that they who have been born from above bring forth fruits, meet for repentance; that they add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; and that these, abounding in them, cause them that they be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Saviour. They are made free from sin, and have become servants unto God; having their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Blessed Saviour, give me evidence in my heart and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; that having been convinced of my sin and misery, I have had my mind enlightened in the know-

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ledge of thee, my will renewed, and have been persuaded and enabled to embrace thee, as thou art freely offered in the gospel. Let me not be satisfied with the form of godliness, without its life-giving power. Search me, O Lord, and try me; and see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Make me watchful against temptation; quick to retrace my way when I fall into evil; ready to confess my trespasses; and earnest in purposes of new obedience. Create in me a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Grant me forgiveness of sins, and enable me to look forward, with a rejoicing hope, to an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Vouchsafe unto me, I pray thee, the testimony of thy Spirit, that I have been redeemed by thy grace. O, if thou hast begun a good work in me, continue it unto the end; and let thy grace be in me as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Lord, convince the impenitent of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, and thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O lead many to inquire what they must do to be saved. Show them that they who are in the flesh cannot please God. Set before them distinctly, life and good; death and evil. May thy law be a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ, that they may be justified by faith. Persuade them to believe in that only name by which sinners can be saved. May they be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

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COUNTRY.

Lord, the kingdom is thine, and thou art the Governor among the nations. I thank thee, Great Ruler, that the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; and that I have a goodly heritage. Imbue my heart with a Christian patriotism, which will take pleasure in every token of my country's real welfare. May I love it as the place of my home, my sustenance, my protection, and my civil and religious privileges. I would rejoice in its length and breadth, fitting it for the ample support of a teeming population—in its plenteous products, crowning the year with goodness—in its works of art, binding it in unity, and facilitating its commerce, and increasing its opulence. I would praise thee for its schools of knowledge, scattering instruction through every class of its inhabitants—for its happy form of government which has made it (though deeply dishonoured by one form of tyranny) a beacon light to other countries, and the refuge of the oppressed and the home of the free—and for its banner of peace, sheltering it from from foes without, and preserving it from enemies within. But, above all, I thank thee that it is a land of Bibles, of Sabbaths, of sanctuaries, and of gospel light.

But, O Lord, if guilt be measured by the number and value of abused mercies, then has this nation a most fearful reckoning with thee. Reprove this people, and set their sins in order before them. Lo! thy Sabbaths, which thou hast given to be a sign between thee and us, are polluted. Because of swearing the land mourneth. This people have loved the gain of oppression and treachery; and have spoiled both the stranger and the native. When

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thou hast fed them to the full, then they committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. Multitudes have loved the cup of drunkenness; until our name has been a reproach among the nations. Our transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied before thee; and our sins testify against us: and thou hast a controversy with this nation.

Yet, Gracious One, take not the weapons of thine indignation, to destroy us. Make us not as Admah: set us not as Zeboim. For the sake of its righteous, let thy repentings be kindled together; for there is a remnant who have not bowed the knee to Baal; and who sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the midst of us. May thy Church be our safety. Thou hast said, that if the wicked repent, and turn themselves from all their transgressions, iniquity shall not be their ruin. O may we loose all our bands of wickedness; and then shall our light break forth as the morning; and our health spring forth speedily: our righteousness shall go before us; and the glory of the Lord shall be our rere-ward.

Lord, bless this country. Cover it with plenty. Secure to all its inhabitants just and equal laws. Let them that rule over us, rule in the fear of the Lord; justifying the righteous and condemning the wicked. Let peace dwell in all our borders. Put the keys of knowledge into every hand. Sanctify all our prosperity. Let the blessings of religion reach every household and every heart. Honour this people by employing them as chief instruments in giving to every nation the grace that bringeth salvation. Be thou our God, and we will be thy people!

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COURAGE.

Lord, enable me to add to faith, Christian fortitude. May I endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Give me grace to encounter and subdue the corruptions of my own heart; and in that conflict between the flesh and the spirit, may I come off more than conqueror through him that hath loved me.—Strengthen me that I may resist the allurements of a world lying in iniquity, and that I may strive against the fear of man; remembering that whosoever will deny Jesus before men, shall be denied by him before the Father in heaven. May I always be ready to answer every man that asketh me, a reason of the hope that is in me. Make me strong in the power of thy might; for I am not called to wrestle against flesh and blood, merely; but against principalities and powers; against spiritual wickedness in high places. Great Captain of Salvation, give me the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, and having thus the whole armour of God, may I be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Grant that when the time of my departure is at hand, I may have the consoling confidence, that I have fought a good fight, and that death shall be swallowed up in victory!

COVENANT.

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure

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mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus.

Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their trans-

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gressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

COVETOUSNESS.

Preserve me, Great Helper, from the vice of covetousness, which is idolatry. O let me not worship filthy lucre, instead of the living God. May I remember the judgment of the valley of Achor, on him who coveted forbidden spoil; and the swift destruction of them that kept back part of the price, and agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. Let me not dishonour my faith in thee, nor blight my spiritual comfort, nor bring disgrace on thy cause, in the eyes of the world, by indulging in this wickedness. Give me full contentment with my own condition, and a right and charitable frame of spirit towards my neighbour and all that is his. Banish from my mind all discontentment with my own estate; all envying and grieving at the good of my neighbour, and all inordinate emotions and affections to any thing that is his.

Help me, O Lord, to overcome the love of the world. May I seek thy favour as the chief good of life, and say in my heart—"there is none on earth I desire beside thee." Lead me to look with the eye of benevolence on the wants of my fellow-creatures; and in supplying them, as thou hast prospered me, to find that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let me not seek to lay up treasures on earth, but in heaven; where moth and rust

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do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

Lord, redeem thy church from this vice, which has spotted her garments, and tainted her blood, and crippled her energies. How long, Blessed Saviour, shall they, who have covenanted to be thine, bow the knee at the golden shrine of mammon? Show them that covetousness degrades their immortal nature, breaks thy holy law, and is the fruitful source of manifold iniquity. Keep them from those graspings of avarice, those daring speculations and greedy monopolies, which are the offspring of pride, and the fountains of misery. May they thus judge, that if Christ has bought them by his own precious blood, they should not live for themselves, but for him. Excite thy people, O Lord, to active and unwearying benevolence. As thou hast made them the stewards of thy multiplied mercies, let none forget to do good, and to communicate; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. May they cease to do evil and learn to do well; and labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life.

CREATION.

Great Builder of the Universe, in the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth; and by thee were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast.—Lord, thou didst make man in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. But man being in honour abode not. He fell from that holy and happy estate,

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in which he was created, by sinning against God; and now all that dwell upon the face of the earth are by nature the children of wrath: yea, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, because of transgression. O God, redeem the works of thy power from their degeneracy. May this earth be renewed with the beauty of Eden. Breathe thou into man the breath of life, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Lord, assist me to acknowledge thy power, wisdom, and goodness, as they are shown in the works of thy hands. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world! All thy works praise thee. O let my tongue and my soul join the chorus of creation; and praise thee in songs of rejoicing, and in newness of life.

Great God, make me thoughtful of the truth, that the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought I to be, in all holy conversation and godliness—looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God; wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?—Nevertheless, may I, according to thy promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

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DAILY BREAD.

Gracious God, I would bless thee that thou carest for the wants of this perishing body; and that thou permittest me to ask thee for my daily bread. Herein thou hast shown both thy condescension and thy love; and hast taught me my dependence on thee, and warned me against undue anxiety respecting the future. I confess before thee, that I am prone to neglect the duty of desiring and seeking, as the gifts of thy hands, my food, and all my temporal comforts. And in receiving them, how often do I fail to acknowledge thy providing and nourishing goodness! O lead me constantly to look to thee, as willing to give to all their meat in due season; and dispose me to receive always thy benefits with humility and thanksgiving.

Lord, suffer not my appetite to crave luxury. May I seek such provision as will recruit and strengthen my body. Let my steadfast desire be, that I may be fitted by thy sustaining mercies, for thy service: so that whether I eat or drink, I may do all to the glory of God.

Teach me, for Jesus' sake, that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me esteem thy words more than my necessary food. Let me not take thought what I shall eat or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but cause me to seek first thy righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto me. Lord, feed me with heavenly manna Give me the Bread of Life; that I may eat and live forever.

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DEAF AND DUMB.

Lord, I thank thee that thou hast given me ears to hear, and a tongue to speak. Increase, I pray thee, my gratitude for these invaluable blessings; and dispose me to use them for my best good and for thy glory.

Gracious Parent, look in mercy on thy children, to whom thou hast given ears that know no sound, and tongues that have no speech. I bless thee that thou hast so directed the benevolence of the humane, that schemes have been devised, which have restored, in part, to these unfortunate and dependent creatures, by the language of signs, the gift of speech; and that they have been led to the fountains of precious knowledge, and taught useful arts.—If it please thee, O let the science of man, in the multitude of its discoveries, find a remedy that will cause the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak. Yet, if thy wisdom deny this prayer, give perfection and universal use to the plans invented for the benefit of deaf mutes.

Lord, though thou hast stopped their ears to the language of man, do thou speak to them in the whispers of thy Spirit. Though thou hast denied to them the utterance of words, do thou give their hearts a voice of praise. Grant, O God, that many of them may be prepared for that kingdom, where the blemishes and defects of human nature, shall be exchanged for the beauty and perfection of the spiritual life.

DEATH.

Blessed Lord, make me ever mindful of the truth, that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Thou canst wound and kill, and there is none to deliver

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out of thy hand. Thou hast determined our days, and appointed the bounds of our habitations. O lead me to consider my latter end, and teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, that I may learn how frail I am. Lord, what is my life? It is a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away.

Teach me, thou Source of Wisdom, that death is the great crisis of my being, which will determine my destiny forever. He whom it finds unjust and filthy, shall be unjust and filthy still; and he whom it finds righteous and holy, shall be righteous and holy still. Lord, let me pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, seeking to be ready for its solemn message; for in such an hour as we think not, the Son of Man cometh. Whatsoever, therefore, my hand findeth to do, may I do it with my might; since there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither I go. Let me not fear them that can kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell, which is the second death.

Lord, train me to such habits of obedience to thy will, and trust in thy dealings, and faith in thy promises, that while I look upon the earthly house of this tabernacle, as one that must be dissolved, I may rejoice in the hope, that I shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. When I am called to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou my rod and staff, to comfort me: and when my heart and flesh fail, be thou the strength of my heart, and my

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portion forever. Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

Lord, fix the thoughts of the impenitent on that great event in their history, when the last fibres of life are breaking; and the soul, fluttering on the verge of eternity, looks back on the familiar scenes of earth with keen remorse, and forward on the unknown future with acute despair. May they now inquire, "How shall my heart endure, or my hands be strong, in the day when thou wilt deal with me?" Persuade them to make their peace with thee now; and then amid the strife of dissolution, thou wilt soothe their tender consciences with the assurance of pardoned sin, and cheer their fainting hearts with the hope of glory.

Look in mercy, I pray thee, on those who are encompassed by the sorrows of death. Prepare them for their solemn and awful change. If they have made their peace with thee, through the blood of Christ, comfort them, and give them blessed foretastes of thy heavenly kingdom. But if they have not, O bring them by thy saving power into thy covenant of grace.

O thou who didst weep at the tomb of Lazarus, comfort those who mourn for the loss of cherished friends. May they kiss thy rod; and if it be consistent with the life or death of the departed, let them not sorrow as those who have no hope; but look forward to that hour, when the hand that now has riven, will restore their fellowship, and make it pure as the light and lasting as the days of heaven!

DECISION.

Almighty God, help me to resolve to be thine, wholly thine, in the bonds of an everlasting cove-

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nant. Let me not halt between two opinions, but choose now to serve the living and true God, with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. O let me not harden my heart, nor provoke thy wrath, by putting off to a more convenient season, the things which belong to my everlasting peace. May I learn that now is thine accepted time for the discharge of duty, and this the day of that salvation which makes thy saints willing subjects of thy power. Teach me that there are no neutrals in thy dominion: and that he who is not with thee is against thee. Lord, make me not only almost, but altogether a Christian. May thy word, and providence, and Spirit inspire me with energy of purpose to do thy pleasure. Whatsoever I do, may I do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men. O make me steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; for we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

DEPENDENCE.

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. Teach me, Giver of Mercies, my absolute and continual dependence on thee for life, and breath, and all things. Thou didst make me by the word of thy power, and I live every moment at the expense of thy bounty. I am full of wants, without any ability in myself to supply them. I am a creature of yesterday; my breath is in my nostrils; and I am crushed before the moth. I know not what a day may bring forth: I cannot add one cubit to my stature; nor make one hair of my head white or black. Grant me, I pray thee, such an abiding conviction of my subjection to thee as shall keep me from resting on an arm of flesh, and lead

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me to trust in the living God. In the hour of prosperity, let me not forget that thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift: and in the season of affliction, show me that thou canst comfort me on every side—canst make my wilderness as Eden, and my desert as the garden of the Lord. Make me realize that in all my efforts to do good, either to myself or others, I must depend on thee. Thou only givest the increase. But blessed be thy name, thy Spirit helpeth my infirmities; and thy strength is made perfect in my weakness.

Assist me by thy grace, in all the vicissitudes of life, to feel that thou art a present help in every hour of need. When toil and care, fears and trials encompass me, lead me to thee, with whom alone dwelleth that peace which passeth understanding: and do thou guide me into green pastures and beside still waters; and let thy banner over me be love. And grant, O Lord, through the merits of Jesus Christ, that when I am called to struggle with the king of terrors, thy grace may be sufficient for me, and that I may be made glad in the hope of eternal life.

DEPRAVITY.—*See Human Depravity.*

DILIGENCE.

Lord, quicken thou me in thy way. Make me diligent in thy work, continuing instant in prayer, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Grant, that in every duty I may be active, watchful and persevering; for no man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Let not mine be the doom of that servant who hid his master's talent in the earth.

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Let me not be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Suffer me not to rely on the memory of past experience, nor on the hope of future obedience; but whatsoever my hand findeth to do, give me zeal to do it with my might. O give me the spirit of diligence in every work of faith and labour of love; remembering my accountability to thee, the importance of the trusts thou hast reposed in me, the shortness of human life, and the abundant rewards thou hast promised to them who are faithful in thy service. Lord, enable me to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset me, and run with patience the race that is set before me; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, and pressing toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

Lord, rebuke the sloth of thy covenant-people. Give them a spirit of active energy in all that relates to the sanctification of their own hearts, the saving health of thy church, and the conversion of sinners. Yet do thou make them feel that while they strive with all their vigour in the obedience of faith, it is thou that workest all in all.

DOUBTS.

Merciful Father, preserve me from a doubtful mind. Let not disease of body, nor affliction of mind, disquiet my soul within me. Let not ignorance nor error intrude on my comfort in the hope of the gospel. Let not Satan unsettle my trust in thy covenant of mercy. And O, suffer not sin, in any form, to bring a cloud over the light of thy countenance, and the joys of thy salvation.—O thou that givest rest to the weary and heavy-laden, show

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me that thy mercy endureth forever. Teach me that thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness. Lead me, I pray thee, in every feeling of despondency, to that throne from which thou givest grace to help in every season of trial. Say unto me, when accused by a guilty conscience—"Come, let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red, like crimson, they shall be as wool." Dissipate my fears, and give me an assurance of an interest in thy favour, and of acceptance in thy sight, through the righteousness of Christ. Grant me thy blessed Comforter, that I may have joy in the Holy Ghost. Cheer me by thy gracious promises, which are Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus. Give me, O Lord, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Let my light rise in my obscurity, and my darkness be as the noonday. Cause thy righteousness to go before me, and thy glory to be my rere-ward!

DUELING.

Lord, I would mourn before thee that man still imbrues, in single combat, his hand in the blood of his fellow-man. O, thou seest that many hearts, which were cherished in the social and family circle; many lives, which were valuable in the public service; and many souls, whose redemption was precious—have been periled and cast away in these barbarous rencounters.—Lord, wilt thou not utterly subvert that merciless code of honour, which combines folly and cowardice, madness and malice, suicide and murder? Do thou bring against this presumptuous and heaven-daring sin, a flood-tide

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of public opinion. Let the pulpit, the press, the forum, and every circle of influence, speak out with a condemning voice. Cause the blood that has been spilt in this unrighteousness, to cry from the ground against it. May every principal and every accessory to it, be regarded in society, and treated in law, as murderers. Let the terrors of an avenging Jehovah startle the fears and quell the violence of every one that would lift up his hand against his brother.

Lord, make the statutes of the land and the law of God the umpires in all the collisions between man and man. Let humility, forbearance, and love, supplant pride, insult, and revenge. And grant, I pray thee, that the balmy atmosphere of peace may encircle the whole earth.

DUTY.

Eternal God, O may my daily and hourly inquiry be, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Instruct me that the duty which thou requirest of me, is obedience to thy revealed will. Help me, I pray thee, to discharge all my obligations to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures.

May I love thee with all my soul, and mind, and strength, and heart. Dispose me to submit to thy will; to love thy character; to trust in thy name; and to fear thine excellent greatness. May I regard thee as, through Christ, the object of prayer, and the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee. Help me, I pray thee, to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Lord, enable me, by thy Spirit, to do my duty to myself. May I exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and repentance unto life; and make a dili-

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gent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates unto us the benefits of redemption. May I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in me, to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

Assist me, O Lord, to perform all the duties, social, civil, and religious, which I owe to my fellow-creatures. May my conduct to them be governed by that spirit of charity which excludes anger, revenge, censoriousness, prejudice, injury, and oppression. Make me averse to injure the feelings, persons, property and character of any. May I delight in the happiness of others. Make my heart a well-spring of sympathy, compassion, and liberality; and lead me to spend cheerfully my property, my time, and, if needs be, my life, in works of mercy and justice. Enable me to fulfil all my relations as a superior, an inferior, and an equal.

Lord, I thank thee for the encouragements thou art giving, in the course of thy providence, to religious effort, by making rich with thy blessing those who are diligent in thy cause. Yet, I would feel that while these things are to be remembered with thankfulness, they increase my obligation to labour, that I may return thine own to thee with abundant usury.—Strengthen me, I pray thee, to do thy will, while it is called to-day—to do it with my might, and with perseverance therein to the end—even as thine angels do it in heaven.

Lord, I would offer these and all other petitions through him who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the whole Israel of God; and without whose merits and intercessions, all my services would be without hope or profit.—[*See* Obedience.]

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EARLY PIETY.

Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the evidence which thy word and the history of thy church give us, that children and youth may be taught to love thy name, and do thy will. Whilst thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, thou hast revealed them unto babes. Thou hast told the young to remember thee; and hast given thy promise that those who seek thee early shall find thee. Our blessed Saviour said, "Suffer little children to come unto me:" and he took them in his arms and blessed them, saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." Lord, thy church, in every age, but especially in our own, has raised up many witnesses, that thou canst satisfy the children of men early with thy mercy, that they may rejoice and be glad all their days.

Lord, increase and multiply greatly the instances of early piety. May multitudes of children feel and act from the motives which should lead them to do that which is well pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Convince them that they are sinners, exposed to thy wrath, walking in rebellion against their heavenly Father, and yet receiving the most tender offers of mercy through Christ the Saviour. Make them feel that Christian friends and happy spirits, holy angels and Jesus Christ, desire their salvation. Make them understand something of the worth of the soul; of death and judgment; of heaven and hell. O lead them, through repentance and faith in Jesus, to remember and serve thee in the days of their youth.

Shepherd of Israel, rebuke the unbelief of thy church respecting the conversion of children, even

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as thou didst rebuke thy disciples when they would have hindered such from coming to thee. Let none despise these little ones; for thou hast warned us that their angels do always behold the face of their Father in heaven. O may thy saints on earth be instruments of leading them to Christ, and training them as plants of righteousness, whose leaf shall not wither, and who will bring forth the fruits of grace. Bless, I beseech thee, the various means which are now used to fill the minds of children with religious truth. Let not this condemnation come upon them, that they knew thy will, but did it not. O may their privileges be to them as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as showers that water the earth; and which cause it to bring forth beauty, and verdure, and fruit.—[*See* SABBATH SCHOOLS.]

EDUCATION.

God of Wisdom, I thank thee that thou hast given me a rational mind and an immortal soul, capable of being trained to the highest and noblest exercises of thought and feeling. Teach me that thou hast put on me the responsibility of training these powers in wisdom and holiness, that I may glorify God, do good unto others, and fill up the measure of my everlasting happiness and welfare. Let me not, I beseech thee, by any neglect or perversion of my rational and immortal faculties, defeat thy benevolence in placing me so far above the brutes that perish. O lead my understanding into useful knowledge, and my heart into redeeming grace.

Lord, bless the useful discoveries and efforts that have been made, and are now making, for the spread of education. O diffuse and increase them, every-

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where, until every human mind will know its powers, and exercise them in such spheres as will make them a blessing to itself, to its country, and to the world. Assist those who would scatter, by the light of truth, the mists of ignorance and error that hang over the minds of the great mass of mankind: but suffer them not to forget that righteousness is the stability of truth, and holiness the safeguard of knowledge. Make all our schools and seminaries nurseries of piety as well as of learning. Cast the healing salt of thy grace into all the fountains of knowledge, and cause them to send forth copious and unfailing streams that will make glad the city of our God.

ENVY.

Father in Heaven, preserve my heart from the baneful dominion of envy. Teach me its exceeding sinfulness, and show me that if I indulge in it, it will be a fountain of unhappiness to myself, and of mischief to my fellows; while it will bring down on me thy heavy displeasure. Lord, let me not be jealous of the gifts, or advantages, or success of others. Let me not be envious of the prosperity of the wicked, whose eyes stand out with fatness, and who have more than heart could wish: surely thou hast set them in slippery places! Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged; yet may I be assured it will be well only with them that fear the Lord. May I feel that I am not worthy of the least of the mercies thou hast already given me; and teach me that thou hast not, in caprice, withheld from me, and bestowed on others, the things which seem good in my eyes.

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Lord, make me content with thy will; and so shall my heart rejoice in thy ways for evermore.

ERROR.

Lord, I would come to thee, in the worthy name of Jesus, to implore thee to shield my judgment and heart from the influence of error. Give me sound knowledge and right feelings. Make me quick to discern that which is right, and to reject that which is wrong. Keep me from the way of the wicked, which is as darkness; and who know not at what they stumble. Lead me to do thy will, that I may know of every doctrine whether it be of God. O let not ignorance cloud my understanding; nor prejudice warp my judgment; nor interest stifle my conscience; nor sin fetter my will: but do thou enable me to detect, and hate, and shun what is false, and to know, and love, and follow the truth, through evil and good report.

Lord, subdue and scatter every form of error in thy church, and throughout the world. Remove from the household of faith, every thing that exalts itself against thy word, and perverts the right ways of the Lord. Bring thy people of every name, into the unity of the Spirit.—Almighty God, cast down the Man of Sin; overthrow the False Prophet; scatter the temples of Idolatry; break the fetters of Infidelity; and overturn, and overturn, and overturn, until the Prince of Truth shall have the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

ETERNITY.

O God, help me to dwell, by faith and prayer, on the solemn realities of the world to come. Thou hast made me in the image of thine own eternity,

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with powers that are capable of eternal progress in holiness, knowledge, and happiness—or in sin, error, and wo: and thou hast filled my soul with hopes and fears that travel far beyond the narrow limits of this life, and find their home in the future state of endless being. My condition will be fixed either in heaven or hell—enjoying the light of thy countenance, or cast out from thy presence for ever—rejoicing in the company of the good, or enduring the fellowship of the wicked—bathing in the fountain of eternal bliss, or plunging in the burning lake of undying wo.

Lord, I thank thee that thou hast revealed eternal things to me, and hast shown me how I may escape everlasting death, and obtain eternal life. Give me a firm belief of their reality, and a deep conviction of their importance. Teach me, O God of Mercy, that life, and time, and means are given me to prepare for eternity—that there is but a step between me and death—and that according to my character then, will be my destiny forever. O seal me now by thy Spirit until the day of redemption; and then let an entrance be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, where my tongue shall utter a ceaseless anthem of praise, my understanding enjoy an unclouded knowledge of truth, and my soul delight in a perpetual feast of love.—[*See* HEAVEN, HELL, SOUL.]

ETERNITY OF GOD.

From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. The number of thy years cannot be searched out; for thou hast no beginning of days, nor end of years. Thou art Alpha and Omega; the beginning and

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ending; which is, and which was, and which is to come; with whom the past, the present, and the future are one eternal NOW. Thou hast life in thyself; and all thy creatures have their being in thee. Heaven and earth shall perish, but thou shalt endure: they shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Lord, may the solemn truth that thou art *eternal*, suitably affect my heart and control my conduct. Thou hast undying power, to make me happy or wretched forever. Throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, thy hand will be on me for weal or wo. O do thou enable me to shun the wrath to come, and to lay hold on eternal life. Make with me now thine everlasting covenant; and be the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

EVIL.

Great Sovereign, it has pleased thee, in the unsearchable purposes of thy wisdom, to permit sickness and pain, misfortune and misery, death and sin, to dwell on earth, and turn its gardens into deserts, its joys into sorrows, and thy subjects into rebels against thy mercy and justice. It is even so, Father, for so it hath seemed good in thy sight. Yet, I am persuaded that thou art controlling and overruling every evil thing for the accomplishment of thy great designs. I know thou hast taught the whole intelligent universe, by the history of man's fall, the bitter fruits of transgression: and I rejoice that in due time, thou didst commend thy love to us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; that where sin and its fruits have abounded

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grace and its blessings may much more abound. Father in Heaven, restore, I pray thee, this earth to the happiness and purity of its first creation. Remove every thing that would mar the peace and holiness of mankind: and grant that as sin has reigned unto death, even so may grace reign, through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

EXAMPLE.

Lord, make me understand the good and evil influences I may exert in the world by my example Let me not dishonour thy name, nor cast shame on thy church, nor throw a stumbling-block in the way of sinners, by a careless or unholy walk: but may my light so shine before men, that they may see my good works, and glorify thee. May I walk as the children of light, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; but rather reprove them. Enable me by well-doing, to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make me blameless and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse people; holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not laboured in vain. Blessed Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a name and a place among thy peculiar people, whom thou hast chosen to show forth thy praises. Make me a guide to the blind, a light to them that walk in darkness, and a living epistle of good works, known and read of all men. Enable me to hold fast the profession of my faith, without wavering, that men may take knowledge of me that I have been with Jesus. O God, restore thy salvation unto me, and uphold me by thy free Spirit; so

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shall I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Lord remove every deformity and repair every defect in my character; and mould my temper and conduct according to the image of the Saviour; who has left us an example, that we should follow in his steps. Make me a partaker of his holiness, that I may escape the corruption that is in the world; and that when he shall appear, I may be like him, and see him as he is.

EXISTENCE OF GOD.

Thou, Jehovah, art the only living and true God. My reason tells me that thou art—my conscience warns me of thy being—thou art known by thy judgments, and art proclaimed by thy mercies. Wherever I go, I see the proofs of thine existence; for the whole universe is an index, referring to thee, as over all, God, blessed for ever. Lord, let not my heart ever say with the fool, "There is no God;" nor my conduct show that I have forgotten or denied thee. Grant that I may not only believe that thou art, but that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee. O teach me out of the book of nature and the volume of thy word, thy being, and character, and will; and may all I learn of thee, lead me to worship and serve thee in spirit and in truth.—[*See* ATHEISM.]

FAITH.

Lord, increase my faith. I would believe: help thou mine unbelief. Give me unwavering trust in thee as infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in all thine attributes. Cause me to repose with implicit confidence in thy purposes and dispensations to-

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wards thy creatures. Enable me to confide all my interests, for time and eternity, to thy keeping. Be thou, O God, the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!

Let me not stagger at thy word through unbelief; for without faith it is impossible to please thee. May I trust thee in all thou hast spoken, as well as in all thou hast done. Let me not hold thy truth in unrighteousness; but do thou make it profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that thereby I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Teach me to confide in its precious promises, to heed its solemn warnings, to follow its sacred examples, and to obey its holy precepts.

Lead me, blessed God, to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. To him give all the prophets witness, that through him, whosoever believeth on his name, shall have remission of sins: while he that believeth not shall be damned. O may he be my Teacher, my Saviour, and my Ruler; and may I receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered in the gospel.

Heavenly Father, excite my trust in thee by the examples of the saints, who by faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and out of weakness were made strong. Wherefore seeing that I am compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may I also, for the joy set before me, endure the cross, and run my race with patience, striving against sin.

Lord, enable me to exercise faith in prayer. Give me an abiding conviction, that thou art the rewarder of all that diligently seek thee. May I ask of thee the things that are according to thy will, trusting

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that I shall receive them. May I knock at the door of thy mercy, believing that thou wilt open unto me. O grant me access with confidence to the throne of thy grace, in the strength of Christ's merits, and of that intercession which he ever liveth to make for those that come unto thee by him.

Lord, give me grace to show my faith by my works; for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. May I add to it virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May it so work by love, that I may realize the iniquity and danger of those who are strangers to thy covenants of promise, and have the energies of my soul and body stirred up, to pluck them as brands from the burning.

Heavenly Father, give me the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for. May I walk by faith, and not by sight; looking not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at those that are not seen, and are eternal. O may it please thee to give me that victory which overcometh the world; and to grant that in all the trials of life, and amid the struggles of death, I may come off more than conqueror, through him who is the end of the law for righteousness, to all that believe on him!

FALSEHOOD.

Lord, preserve me from falsehood. Teach me that it degrades character, injures peace of conscience, subverts the welfare of society, and incurs thy hot displeasure. O make my conscience tender with regard to every violation of truth. Let me not utter falsehood in jest; for thou hast said that for

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every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account in the day of judgment. Let me not depart from truth, for the love of gain; for the wages of sin is death. Let me not practice deceit, through the fear or favour of man; for his breath is in his nostrils. And, O Lord, let me not be false, with the plea of doing good; for we may not do evil that good may come. Keep me, I pray thee, from every thing which is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to my own or my neighbour's good name. Suffer me not to think, nor act, nor speak deceitfully in any thing.

O Lord, makè me, above all, sincere towards thee. Let me not attempt to draw nigh to thee with a lip-service, while my heart is far from thee. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins: thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked. May all my homage before thee, spring from a controlling desire to do thy will, which requires truth in the inward parts. O renew my spirit in the likeness of thy Son; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

FAMILIES.

Lord, bless all the households of the earth. Thou art worthy to be praised for the institution of the family relation, in which thou hast blended the sweet influences of support and dependence, protection and control, love and obedience; which are essential to the comfort and virtue of individual being, and the safety and purity of social life. Fulfil, I pray thee, all the purposes of mercy thou hadst in view, in the establishment of the domestic constitution; and do thou make all the homes of earth households of piety.

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Lord, let mutual attachment, counsel, and assistance, and love to God, be the bonds of union between every husband and wife. Give to parents an adequate sense of the responsibility thou hast laid on them, to train up their offspring in knowledge, industry, and virtue. Cause them to teach thy words diligently to their children; and to talk of thy statutes when they sit in their house, when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they rise up. Show them that the rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child, left to himself, bringeth shame. Make them wise to discern, and faithful to execute, those measures, which will secure, with thy blessing, domestic happiness and piety. O let an altar, for daily sacrifice, be raised in every dwelling, to consecrate its pleasures, and to obtain thy favour.

Heavenly Father, dispose children everywhere to obey their parents, in the Lord. Let them not, by unkindness and disobedience, bring shame or sorrow to the hearts of fathers and mothers; nor draw down disgrace or misery on their own heads. Though they can never requite the care and labour that have been bestowed on them; yet may they by reverent affection and dutiful service, minister to the comfort and well-being of their parents. And O do thou gladden the hearts of such, by bringing their offspring into the adoption of the sons of God.

Lord, cause the relations of brothers and sisters to be distinguished by forbearance, conciliation, assistance, and love: and let all their reciprocal ties be purified and cemented by the friendship of him that sticketh closer than a brother.

O do thou secure for those that are servants, justice and kindness from their superiors. Teach them the duties of their station; and incline them to

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discharge every lawful labour with cheerful fidelity. Make them realize thine own claims on their obedience; and incline them to fulfil, with all their strength, the service of their heavenly Master.

Gracious God, make the domestic circle the dwellingplace of every thing that is pure, and lovely, and of good report. Make it the cradle of the household of faith, and the nursery of the brotherhood of glory.

FASTING.

Assist me, O Lord, to set my face unto thee, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting. Lead me at suitable times, to deny my appetites, out of religious principle, and with a view to spiritual benefits on myself and others. Teach me that thou hast commanded this duty; that thy saints in all ages have fulfilled it; and that in doing so, they have enjoyed thy favour. Lord, make it the intelligent service of my heart. May I resort to it as a means of crucifying the flesh, of mortifying the deeds of the body, and of bringing my worldly desires into subjection to the immortal interests of the soul. Enable me to offer it in penitence before thee, as the expression of a sense of my sinfulness. Do thou make its every exercise conducive to the health of my body, and the clearness and vigour of my mind. Grant that it may assist me to forsake selfishness and iniquity, and to serve thee with a purehearted and an increasing devotion.

Lord bless the appointed fasts of thy churches. May these solemn seasons be accompanied by penitence for transgression, abandonment of sin, consecration to thy service, and revivals of pure and undefiled religion, which shall pervade all the courts

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of Zion, and be the means of adding to her many of such as shall be saved.

FATHERS.

Heavenly Parent, let the hearts of the fathers be turned to the children, lest thou come and smite the earth with a curse. Lord, instruct those to whom thou hast intrusted the paternal relation, in all the duties which are incumbent upon them. Teach them that their primary and essential qualification is personal piety, of an elevated and controlling character. Make them deeply conscious of the necessity of prayer, in enabling them to realize their responsibilities, in preparing them to meet their duties, and in securing thy favour on their efforts. Convince them of the unspeakable importance of continual uprightness, that their example may be pure in the eyes, and influential on the hearts, of their offspring. Make them understand the value of that power of control, which having wisely ascertained, and fixed the rules of obedience, requires strict compliance with them. Let them seek to gain not only an outward submission to their commands, but to bring the will into a cheerful and habitual obedience to their authority. Persuade them that though folly is bound up in the heart of a child, the rod of correction will drive it far from him. May the spirit of prudent love be the governing impulse in all their paternal dealings, whether of rewards or punishments; and let neither sinful indulgence, nor cruel revenge, dictate the measures of their government. Cause them to observe a steady uniformity of discipline, which shall be known to all the household as the law of the family. Give them that constant watchfulness, which will

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seek to avert every danger, and obtain every good. Make them anxiously careful respecting the associates of their children; for he that walketh with the wise shall be wise; but the companion of fools shall be destroyed. May they train them up in such employments as shall suit their characters, and make them useful to themselves and society. Let them labour in honesty, to make competent provision for their households. Dispose them to give their cordial co-operation to every judicious scheme which mothers, in the discharge of their duties, may endeavour to execute. Let the intellectual education of their youth be an object of constant solicitude and attention. And, Lord, let every measure of their conduct be auxiliary to the desire and effort, that the souls of their offspring may be saved.

O God, convince fathers that character is formed in the earliest stages of life—that they are responsible to their children, to their country, and to God, for the impress that is given to the juvenile mind—and that the influences they set in motion, will go down from generation to generation, and have no limits, even in the results of eternity! Lord, who is sufficient for these things? Thou givest power to the faint; and to them that have no might, thou increasest strength. Lo, their sufficiency is of God!

FEAR.

Lord, grant that my heart may always be influenced by that fear of thee, which is the beginning of wisdom; and which is a fountain of life that is clean, enduring forever. Let not my fear of thee be the dread of a slave, nor the terror of a criminal; but the awe of a servant, mingled with the confidence of a child. May it lead me to avoid thy dis-

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pleasure—to desire thy favour—to hate evil—and to do thy pleasure, in all the walks of life.

Lord, cause the dread of thy judgments to rest on the wicked. Make them feel that thy presence is continually about them, and that thy knowledge makes record of all their transgressions. May they learn thy power and justice, and be convinced that these attributes are pledged to destroy the finally impenitent. Cause them to kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and they perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Show them that thy mercy is upon all that fear thee, from generation to generation.

Keep me, O Lord, from the fear of man that bringeth a snare. If thou art for me, who can be against me? Who is he that will harm me, if I am a follower of that which is good? Grant me courage to speak of thy testimonies and not be ashamed. Though the proud have me in derision, let me not decline from thy law. Help me to despise the shame of a gainsaying world, lest the Son of Man be ashamed of me, when he cometh in the glory of the Father, with his holy angels.

FELLOWSHIP.—*See Communion.*

FORBEARANCE.

Vouchsafe unto me, O Lord, that spirit which is not easily provoked; but that beareth all things, and endureth all things; that suffereth long, and is still kind. Fix permanently in my mind, the example of Christ, who also suffered for us, that we should follow in his steps. And thou hast said that when we do well, and suffer for it, yet take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. Show me that the dis-

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cretion of a man deferreth his anger, and it is his glory to pass over a transgression. May I consider my own proneness to trespass upon the rights of others, lest I also be tempted, and need the forbearance of my fellows. Let me recompense to no man evil for evil; nor avenge myself; but rather give place to wrath: for vengeance is thine, and thou wilt repay. Dispose me, O Lord, to love my enemies; and O let me not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

FORBEARANCE OF GOD.

Heavenly Father, assist me to contemplate the riches of thy forbearance and long-suffering. I am not deserving of the least of thy mercies. Hadst thou been strict to mark mine iniquities, I had long ere this been receiving the endless retributions of sin. My whole life has been a witness for thee, that thou wilt have mercy, and not sacrifice: and I enjoy now the privilege of approaching thy mercy-seat, because thy mercy rejoiceth against thy judgment. O I am not worthy to come into thy presence, nor to lift up mine eyes to the place where thine honour dwelleth. Lord, let me not vex thine enduring goodness by continued sin, lest thou say in thy wrath, "Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone." Let me not weary thy patience with unfruitfulness; lest thou pronounce thy judgment, "Cut him down: why cumbereth he the ground?" Merciful Father, grant that thy forbearance may lead me to the humility of penitence, and the obedience of faith.

Lord, let not sinners despise nor presume on the riches of thy long-suffering. Suffer not their hearts to be set in them to do evil, because sentence

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against an evil work is not executed speedily Show them that thou givest thy mercy, that they may have space for repentance; or, that if they turn not from their evil ways, thou mayest display thy holy justice in their condemnation. O grant, Lord, that thy patience with them may lead them to repent, and to learn, in the day of their merciful visitation, the things which belong to their peace.

FOREKNOWLEDGE.

God of Wisdom, how infinite is the contrast between thine omniscience and our imperfect knowledge. We know not what a day may bring forth: but thou knowest the end from the beginning. There is none that has been thy counsellor: thine eye alone searches the secrets of futurity. A thousand years are with thee as but one day; and among the infinite series of events that lie throughout the eternity to come, there is not one, of which thou dost not know the time and the manner of its coming.

Lord, I would praise thee for those fruits of thy foreknowledge, which thou hast given us in thy prophecies and promises. I thank thee that thou hast granted us these testimonials of thy wisdom and love to confirm our faith in thy word, and to strengthen our hope in thy mercy. O grant that the foretellings of thy knowledge, which are registered in thy word, may convince the infidel, that the Bible is everlasting truth. And may all that love thee, thank God, and take courage from these seals of thy testimonies.

FORGIVENESS.

Almighty God, do thou so control and discipline my heart, that I shall be ever ready to exercise the

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virtue of forgiveness. Though my motives and character be slandered, and my property and person be injured, let me not return railing for railing, nor injury for injury. May I remember thine example of long-suffering and great mercy, in which thou dost not avenge thyself of thine adversaries; and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. May I consider how long thou didst bear with my own disregard of thy rights, and disobedience to thy law; until thou didst at last move me to repentance and faith, and didst crown me, as I trust, with undeserved forgiveness of my sins.

Lord, make me realize the condition of that prayer, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." O let me not, by a vindictive spirit, seal up the fountains of thy pardon; for thou hast said that if we do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will our Father in heaven forgive us our trespasses.—Lord, incline me, moreover, to a merciful spirit, by the reflection that I often commit offences against the rights of others. May I therefore do unto them as I would have them do unto me.—Make me willing to seek forgiveness of any whom I may offend or injure. Permit not false shame nor pride to keep me from acknowledging my errors and transgressions. May I feel that there is more honour in confessing and repairing a sin against my neighbour, than in covering it up, and refusing to render him justice.—Lord, dispose me to love my enemies, to bless them that curse me, and to do good to them that hate me. Make me willing, under every injury, to pray—"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."—[*See* PARDON.]

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FRUGALITY.

Make me frugal, O Lord, in my habits of life. Let me not be anxious as to what I shall eat, or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; nor seek to make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Persuade me that I have no right to decorate my person, my family, my house, or my table, with unbecoming, or dishonest, or luxurious expenditure. O let not this reproach, so common in the church, rest on me, that I spend more on my selfishness, than the amount of the tithes I bring into thy storehouse. Convince me that an immoderate use of thy bounties is inconsistent with peace of mind, health of body, and enjoyment of thy favour. May I gather up my fragments of time and property, and employ them in thy service. Lord, dispose me to use economy and prudence in my expenses, that I may thus be furnished with additional means of supplying the wants of the destitute, and contributing to those objects of benevolence, which promote the welfare of man and display thy glory.

GAMING.

Lord, root out of every society the insidious and destructive vice of gaming. Make men understand its seductions, iniquities, and dangers. Teach them that a sinful love of money is the spring that throws open the heart to its lures; and that while it promises plenty and joy, it is gently drawing its thoughtless victims into the magic circles of its destroying whirlpool. Show them that it is the destroyer of every virtue, and the patron of every transgression. Reverence, truth, honesty, peace, and purity sicken and perish before it: while pro-

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fanity, falsehood, fraud, contention, and lust, spring up and flourish in its pathway. O how has hope been blasted, abundance impoverished, character ruined, and souls destroyed by this legate of Satan. Nor, alas, have the victims suffered alone: for they have dragged down with them into penury and sorrow, those that were bound to them with ties, which their fall could not break.

Merciful God, preserve the young from this vice. Let those who control this class consider whether what seem to be innocent games of chance, are not laying the foundation, in their pliant minds, for that love of play which has filled with countless wrecks this vortex of ruin. Have mercy on those who are floating on its deceptive currents. Turn them back from the error of their ways. Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good. Make the gamester a reproach in every circle of decency: and let the moral and good shrink from his fellowship as from the contagion of death. Do thou make honest industry honourable everywhere: and persuade him who is tempted to forsake it, that better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

GENTLENESS.

Heavenly Father, bestow on me that fruit of thy Spirit which is gentleness. Impress on my mind, that the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men. May I remember him who was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and like a sheep dumb before his shearer, opened not his mouth: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he suffered threatened not, but

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committed himself to him that judgeth righteously—leaving us an example, that we should follow in his steps. Blessed Jesus, thou pattern of meekness, preserve my temper and conduct from unkindness and violence. May a holy calm pervade my heart in all the changes and trials I may encounter—and manifest itself in kindness and good-will, in all the relations of life. O fill my heart with that wisdom from above, which is gentle, easy to be entreated, and full of mercy and good fruits.

GLORY OF GOD.

Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in the infinite excellencies of thy character. Thou art everlasting in being, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom, inflexible in justice, eternal in truth, spotless in holiness, and boundless in mercy. Great and marvellous are thy works, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Who will not fear and glorify thy name? The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament exhibiteth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech concerning thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. All thy works praise thee. But it is in the person and work of our blessed Saviour, that thou hast chiefly shown the perfection of thy character, for the adoration and homage of thine intelligent creation. There thou didst make thy richest display of might and knowledge, righteousness and goodness. O, thou art worthy to be held in everlasting honour, that he who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, was made flesh, and dwelt with us, being in all points tempted as we are; and when he had filled up the measure of his reproach and perse-

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cution, gave himself up to an ignominious death, that we might have redemption through his blood, even the remission of sins!

Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. O help me to honour thee whenever I contemplate thy works, or thy word, or thy providence. Make me willing to spend my substance, my reputation, my time, and my life itself, to promote the honour of thy name. May I praise thee in my thoughts, and with my lips, and by my life: and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God. And do thou shine into my heart to give me the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, let all thy saints bless thee. Instruct them that their chief end is to glorify thee. Dispose them to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. May they meditate on thy greatness, and talk of thy wondrous works, and honour thy will by acts of holy obedience. Be thou admired in all that believe on thee. Make them the blessed instruments of leading multitudes, who now cast dishonour on thy mercy, to witness and magnify the riches of thy grace.

Father, glorify thy name in turning the wicked from the error of their ways unto the wisdom of the just. O fulfil in all their power and efficacy the messages of the gospel, which are glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men.

God.—*See Adoration, Existence, Omnipresence, &c.*

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GODLINESS.

O Lord, vouchsafe to me, through the merit and intercession of Jesus, that godliness which is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. Lead me to reverence thy name; for thou art God, and beside thee there is none other. Incline me to love thy character, which is the perfection of excellency. Learn me thy testimonies, which are sure, making wise the simple. Lead me to submit willingly to all thy dispensations; for they are of the Lord; let him do what seemeth good in his sight. May I depend on thee with a confiding heart, for every blessing; for thou hast said that as my day is, so shall my strength be. Teach me to supplicate thee for thy mercies; and let not my prayer be as a lamp that has neither oil nor light. Excite me, O Lord, to praise thy goodness; for thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness. Build thou my hopes of thy favour on the precious merits of Jesus, besides whose name there is no other given by which I may be saved. And, O Lord, assist me by thy grace to obey all thy law; for not every one that saith, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of our Father in heaven.

Shepherd of Israel, bless the fold of Christ. Let none who have the form of godliness deny the power thereof. Give thy people wisdom, love, zeal, and influence. Grant them that piety which is wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost, and nurtured by communion with thee; which is fed daily by thy precious word, and made healthy and

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vigorous by active obedience to thy commandments.

May their lives be hid with Christ in God, so that when Christ, who is their life, shall appear, they also shall appear with him in glory.—And grant, most merciful God, that all men may learn that mystery of godliness; God manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory!

GOOD WORKS.

Blessed God, make me understand the imperfection of human obedience. There is not a just man on earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Even when I most fulfil thy will, I am an unprofitable servant. Lord, keep me from thoughts and boastings of merit: for it is not by works of righteousness, I have done, that I shall be justified, but by thy grace, through Jesus Christ, the Saviour. And yet, O Lord, do thou make me careful to maintain good works: for thou requirest me to work that which is well pleasing in thy sight; and thou hast an infinite right to my service, as my Creator, Ruler, and Redeemer. Create me, therefore, in Christ Jesus, unto good works, and make me as the branch which abideth in the vine, bearing fruit. May thy word be in my heart; as good seed, which springeth up, and beareth an hundred fold. May I do thy will with a heart of love, with faith unfeigned, and with desire that all I do may be for thy glory. Grant me the renewing of the Holy Spirit, and that faith which works by love, and is accepted by thee, in Christ's name, for righteousness. Teach me, O Lord, that whatsoever a man

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soweth that shall he also reap. If he sow to the flesh, he shall of the flesh reap corruption: but if he sow to the Spirit, he shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. I pray thee, therefore, let me not be weary in well-doing; for in due season I shall reap, if I faint not.—[*See* DUTY AND USEFULNESS.]

GOODNESS OF GOD.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; for God is love. Thou art good, O Lord, in giving, preserving, and blessing the lives of thy creatures. They are thine offspring, and have their being in thy mercy. The eyes of all are unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season: thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desires of every living thing. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness.—Thou hast shown thy mercy in thy forbearance; for if thou didst mark iniquity, who could stand? Yea, thou art long-suffering, and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.—But thou hast exhibited thy goodness, above all, in the gift of thy Son. Thou didst so love the world, as to give him, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life: and thou didst commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we had turned every one to his own way, the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.—Blessed God, thou art merciful in the gift of the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation—and in the bestowment of that Comforter, whose ministrations are life, because of righteousness.—Even our afflictions have been blessings in disguise: for thou hast

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chastened us for our profit, that we might be partakers of thy holiness: and though thy chastenings seemed not to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterwards they worked the peaceable fruits of righteousness.—Lo! thou hast made even the sins of thy creatures to work together for good: thou hast made the wrath of man to praise thee: and where sin hath abounded, grace doth much more abound. —Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even he shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord!

Heavenly Father, make me feel that I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies, and that I have deserved thy wrath instead of thy kindness. Bind me, I beseech thee, to thee and thy cause, by a strong and an abiding gratitude. Permit me not to forget nor abuse thy mercies. Let them not rise up in judgment against me, either in this world, or in that which is to come. Do thou lead me, O Lord, to imitate thy goodness, by labours of love, and by seeking occasions to do good, in all the relations of life.

Lord, draw all men unto thee by the cords of thy love. May thy kindness lead them to repentance, and to devotion to thy cause. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. His goodness endureth continually, and his mercy is everlasting. Lord let thine abundant grace, through the thanksgiving of many, redound to thy glory. Amen.

GOSPEL.

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great

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joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them,

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being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free.

Lord, may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.—Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

GOVERNMENT.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, dispose me to pray for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all honesty and godliness. May I remember that the powers that be are ordained of God, and that by thee kings reign and princes decree justice. Make me grateful to thee that thou hast put the restraints of law upon mankind. O do thou make every rule of administration throughout the world, conform to thy benevolent will. Make those that bear the sword a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well. Make our officers peace, and our exactors righteousness. Let our lawgivers be men that fear God and

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nate covetousness. Though thou canst make the wrath of tyrants to praise thee; yet do thou so order the means and objects of human government, that thy glory may be advanced by the holiness and happiness of rulers and people.

Lord, I thank thee for that form of government which has been, under thy hand, a protection and blessing to this nation. Reform its evils, and spread its blessings, until every country shall rejoice in the sovereignty of useful and just laws. But, O Lord, may we not forget that it is righteousness which exalteth a nation; while sin is a reproach to any people. Deal not with us according to our transgressions. Say not in thy wrath, that thy kingdom shall be taken from us, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. Make this land Immanuel's land, where peace will have her dwelling, liberty her home, and piety her abode; until this world, and all the works therein, shall be burned up, and there be new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness!—[*See* COUNTRY.]

GRACE.

Lord, enable me, through the adorable Redeemer, to know, and value, and possess the exceeding riches of thy grace. It is rich in its source; for it is the fulness of him that filleth all in all. It is rich in its abundance; since it is given to us for help in every time of need. And, O, it is rich in its unspeakable blessings; for it brings the forgiveness of sins—gives us the washing of regeneration—unites us to Christ by a living faith—justifies us by his merits—bestows on us the witness of the Spirit—gives us the victory over the world and the grave—makes us heirs of God, and joint heirs with

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Christ, in the enjoyments of heaven forever. Show me, O Lord, that Jesus is the mediator of this blessing: it is he that maketh peace through the blood of his cross: he giveth repentance and remission of sins: and he seals the redeemed soul, by the Spirit, through sanctification, unto eternal life:—Lord, thou couldst have glorified thyself in the destruction of thy rebel creatures; but thou hast chosen, in thy mercy, to win them back to thee by love, that thou mightest glorify thyself in their newness of life on earth, and their eternal bliss in heaven.

Merciful God, enable me, by thy blessing, to grow in grace. May I hunger and thirst after righteousness, and desire the sincere milk of the word, that I may grow thereby. May I seek to give strength to every godly principle within me, by habitual industry in thy service; by exercising myself unto godliness, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. Be pleased to order thy dispensations, whether of prosperity or adversity, so that they may promote my spiritual good. Build me on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. May I in all things by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. And, O, grant me thy Holy Spirit, to sanctify my affections, and to assist me in giving all diligence to make my calling and election sure.

Heavenly Father, transform me by the renewing of my mind, that I may know what is thy good, and perfect, and acceptable will. Animate my heart with supreme love to God, and impartial love to man. Give me an increasing purity of motive, strength of principle, abasement of self, and loathing of sin. Turn me from every wrong pursuit,

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and lead me into every right way. Let me not love the world, nor the things that are in the world. May I cherish the fellowship of thy saints; and seek the welfare of thy kingdom, by gifts, by labour, and by supplication. Blessed Lord, make me holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Enable me to go from strength to strength; and do thou change me from glory to glory.

Shepherd of Israel, cause thy grace to dwell richly in the hearts of all thy people. May they watch unto prayer against anger, pride, and covetousness; against ambition, censoriousness, and impurity. May they look diligently, lest any fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up, trouble them, and thereby many be defiled. Make their Christian character as the light of heaven, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day.

Lord, exert the power of thy grace on the hearts of the impenitent. Convince them of their guilt and danger; persuade them to accept of thy mercy in Jesus; renew their wills and sanctify their feelings; lead them to pant after thee, as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, and to run willingly in all the ways of thy commandments. O grant that where sin hath abounded, grace may much more abound. And to God, only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, forever.

GRATITUDE.

Lord Jehovah, thou art good, and lovest to do good. Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift. My whole life has been a record of thy mercy. Thou hast given me the blessings of health and peace, food and clothing, home and friends, protec-

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tion and happiness. Yet all these are but as the small dust of the balance, compared with thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Though the creatures thou hadst made, to be the subjects of thy bounty, had all rebelled against thy law, thou didst so love them, as to give thy Son for them, to bring them back, with an everlasting redemption. And because they still, notwithstanding this matchless offer of compassion, would not come unto thee, that they might have life, thou hast given them the influences of thy Holy Spirit, to persuade them to accept of mercy. And to as many as thou hast given power to become the sons of God, thou hast vouchsafed such measures of thy grace, that they shall be able to persevere in obedience, through faith, unto complete salvation.

O Lord, cause my gratitude to bear some proportion to thy goodness. Let me not forget thy benefits, nor think that my own hand has wrought any of them. Incline me to look back often, with mingled feelings of wonder and love, on the way in which thou hast led me by thy providence and grace. Show me the enormity of my sinfulness, which has made me blind to thy love, forgetful of thy favour, and thankless for thy mercy: and grant me deeper impressions of that benevolence, which though thus abused, has still waited to be gracious. Give me such views of thy loving-kindness, and of my own utter unworthiness, as shall lead me to magnify continually the richness of thy goodness. Induce me to love thee because thou hast first loved me. Make my enjoyment of thy mercies a motive to obedience. Especially may the love of Christ constrain me to do thy will. O may I desire to show my sense of obligation to thee, by always seeking to do what is well-pleasing in thy sight.

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Great God, cause thine unnumbered mercies towards guilty men, to melt the hardness of their hearts, to subdue their rebellious wills, and to lead them, by the allurements of thy love, to a godly sorrow for sin, a cordial faith in the atonement, and a grateful devotion to thy cause. Make the multitudes who are children of disobedience, the sons of adoption, to the praise of the fulness of thy grace.

O Lord, permit me not to be ungrateful to my fellow-creatures. Thou hast been pleased so to constitute our social relations, that each is dependent on others for kindness and favour. Thou hast made many of them the almoners of thy bounty to me. Make my heart sensible to every benefit I receive from them: and while my affections abound towards those who do me good, lead me, O Lord, to do good to all men.—Promote, I beseech thee, the prevalence of acts of good-will among all thy creatures; until envy, ingratitude, and hatred shall be banished from the world, and all men abound in love to God, and to each other.

GRAVE.

Great God, teach me that I am dust, and must return to dust. May I often and habitually look forward to the grave, that narrow house appointed for all the living. Lead me to regard it as the monument of human guilt; for if there had been no sin, there had been no grave; the wages of sin is death. O may every mound that marks the last dwelling-place of a human being, be a witness that sin has entered into the world, and death by sin. May I learn from it, the vanity of earthly good—we bring nothing into the world, and we can carry nothing

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out—we must say to corruption, "Thou art my father;" and to the worm, "Thou art my mother and my sister." Lord, this wide world is one vast burial-place; and we plant our feet daily on some spot that has been the charnel-house of mortality. Alas, death dwells everywhere, but in the giddy thoughts of men!

But I thank thee, O Lord, that amid all its gloom, the grave has its consolations. Jesus, our Saviour, has been there, and has sanctified the tomb as the restingplace of his people's dust. There the weary are at rest. Though the body shall turn to dust, the spirit will return to God who gave it: and while thy saints are absent from the body, they are present with the Lord. Nor shall our sleep be eternal: the earth shall cast out her dead—this mortal shall put on immortality, and that which was sown in dishonour, shall be raised in glory.—Lord, grant that when the dead shall come forth at thy voice, mine may be the resurrection of life; that so I may be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Heavenly Father, grant, for Christ's sake, that every tomb may be a convincing and persuading preacher to the impenitent. May they learn and act upon the truth, that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Behold thou hast made their days as a hand-breadth, and their age is as nothing before thee. Show them that after death cometh the judgment, when they who have done evil, shall come forth to the resurrection of damnation. O may many now lay to heart the things that belong to their eternal peace: and then, when Christ shall appear,

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they also shall appear with him, who is the resurrection and the life, blessed forever.

GRIEF.

Compassionate Jehovah, thou knowest all the sources of my griefs—the afflictions of my body—the weakness and ignorance of my mind—the loss of cherished objects—and the miseries of my sinfulness. When I look back upon my past life, how do slighted mercy, neglected grace, and sinful rebellion rise up to confound me with sorrow. When I look within me, and examine my present state, I find that when I would delight in the law of the Lord, after the inward man, there is a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin; so that I am constrained to say, "O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"—When my thoughts go forth into the unknown future, I have reason to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, lest, being led away by the corruption of my heart, the error of the wicked, and the deceit of Satan, I may fall from my steadfastness.—When I look around me, I find sources of grief everywhere; for the ways of Zion mourn, and my heart is faint within me: I behold the transgressors, and am grieved: rivers of waters should run down mine eyes, because men keep not thy law.—O God, it behooves me also to mourn when thou dost, for any reason, hide thy face from me—when the heavens above me are as brass, and my trembling heart would surmise that even God had forgotten to be gracious.

But, O Lord, thou knowest all my griefs; and thou canst sanctify them to me. I pray thee, soothe

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and bless my sorrows. Recompense me in all of them, by the light of thy countenance. Give me the blessedness of them that mourn with a godly sorrow; for they shall be comforted. Restore unto me the joys of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit. Let not my soul be cast down, nor grow weary of life, nor rebel against thy will. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. When thou hast wrought the purposes of thy sovereignty, O give me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

HAPPINESS.

Blessed God, I thank thee for that impulse of my nature, by which I am led to pursue happiness. Without its refreshing influence, life would be but a barren desert. Yet, O how has my evil heart corrupted this law of thy benevolence. Whilst thou hast given me faculties and aspirings for communion with God, and heaven, and holiness, I have sought my joys in sense, and earth, and sin. Lord, help me to overcome this corruption of my nature. May I make my happiness subordinate to thy glory, and in unison with my duty. Dispose me, I pray thee, to use the lawful pleasures of life temperately, and with submission to thy will. Let not my soul find its portion in this world's pleasures, honours, or riches. Lead me to seek first the kingdom of righteousness, and all that ¶ need for my comfort shall be added to it. Give me the blessedness of the poor in spirit and the mourners for sin; of the meek and those that hunger and thirst after righteousness; of the merciful and the pure in heart; of the peacemakers, and those who are reviled and persecuted

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for Christ's sake. May I seek thy favour, as the source and life of every joy. Comfort me, I pray thee, with a sense of thy forgiving mercy in Jesus; and, O be thou in him my reconciled God and Father. Vouchsafe unto me the joys of holy communion with the triune God, and of faith in thy character, word, and providence. Grant me the delights of thy rich, distinguishing, and unmerited grace; and of an humble but blessed instrumentality in doing good.

Teach me, O Lord, that it is not the lot of even the best of the righteous, to enjoy undisturbed bliss in this vale of tears. The deceptions of sin within and without, the malice of the wicked, and the assaults of Satan, often bring anguish on the hearts of thy people. Incline me, therefore, to look at those things which are unseen and eternal, and to lay up treasures where there is no sin nor sorrow, but fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore.

Lord, lead those who are seeking their happiness in the perishing and corrupting pleasures of the world, to feel their folly and guilt. Show them the excellency and stability of the joys of thy service and salvation; and enable them by thy grace in Christ, to make thee the strength of their hearts, and their portion forever. Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

HEALTH.

I thank thee, O Lord, for the comfortable degree of health I have been permitted to enjoy. I bless thee that thou hast healed my sicknesses, and that thou hast made their seasons short and few, compared with those in which I have been free from disease and pain. Lord, grant me the healthful

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exercise of all the powers of my mind and body. Lead me to know and follow those physical and moral laws within and around me, disobedience to which, will disorder this structure which thou hast so fearfully and wonderfully made; but which, if obeyed, will tend to promote my personal comfort and soundness. May I make the pursuit of health, the means of enabling me to grow in grace, to do good, and to advance the glory of God.

Blessed Lord, be thou the Physician of my soul. —Heal my heart when it is broken with sorrow; bind up my conscience when it is wounded by transgression. Cleanse my mind from error, and my spirit from sin; and do thou bring over my soul the renovating and strengthening joys of thy saving health.

HEART.

O God, assist me to keep my heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. May I remember that it is by nature deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; and that none but God can bring a clean thing out of this unclean. O how would I blush to let my most familiar friend look into its hidden chambers. Dispose me, I pray thee, to watch over it, lest I fall into temptation; to be humble and mournful for its hardness and sinfulness; and to seek earnestly for grace to cleanse me from its secret faults and presumptuous sins. May I ever feel, O Lord, that thou searchest the heart, and knowest it altogether. Help me, I beseech thee, to make thee the object of its sincere, unchanging, and unreserved love.

Great and Merciful God, guide and govern my affections, so that they shall promote thy glory,

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show forth the beauty of holiness, and impart to me peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, fulness of grace, and steadfastness, through faith, unto complete redemption. O do thou give strength to my heart in all the exigencies of life—in the days of prosperity and the hours of affliction—in Zion's troubles and joys—in rejoicing and sorrow—in duty and temptation—in doubts and fears—in sickness and death. Give me an inward propensity to holiness. Help me to keep the avenues of my soul—my eye, that it may not lust after evil—my ear, that it may be open to God, and shut to sin—and my thoughts, that they may not be vain and unholy. Lord, dispose me to watch unto prayer; to ponder the path of my feet; to search the Scriptures; and to rely on thy Spirit to cleanse me from all that is evil, and to strengthen me in all that is good.

Merciful Father, persuade impenitent sinners to give their hearts to thee. Make them feel that thou hast created them for thine own; that thou hast purchased them day by day, by thy common mercies; and that Christ died that they might love thee. Make them realize, in some degree, what it is to be cast off from thy love forever. O lead them by the terrors of the Lord, and by the cords of love, to give thee their affections without reserve, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious. Whilst thou art calling, "To-day," O may they hear thy voice, and harden not their hearts; but open their consciences to conviction of sin, and their souls to the renewing of the Holy Ghost; so that they may the able to say, "Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none on earth that we desire beside thee."

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HEATHEN.

Blessed God, I thank thee for the rich and various blessings of thy gospel which I am permitted to enjoy. O may the possesion of them remind me that there are millions of my fellow-creatures, as good by nature as I am, to whom they are denied. Give me, I pray thee, for the merits of Jesus Christ, such a sense of these mercies, that my gratitude to thee shall constantly urge me to strive to extend them to the benighted nations of the earth. Make my heart a fountain of compassion for the wants and woes of the heathen; and lead my feelings into such actions as shall make me an instrument of giving them the blessings of salvation. Show me that where there is no vision the people perish, and that they only who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed; and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher; and how shall any preach except they be sent? Make my conscience and heart feel the command thou hast given thy people, to preach the gospel to every creature. O Lord, lead me to obey it according to the dictates of thy Spirit, and the openings of thy providence. Grant that I may regard it as an incumbent duty and a blessed privilege, to contribute of my substance, my labours, and my prayers, for the conversion of the world.

Lord, I would praise thee for what thou hast inclined thy chosen generation to do, in these days, for the heathen world. O strengthen and bless all their efforts which are founded on obedience and love; and do thou lead them to plan and execute

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every measure which will secure thy favour. Impart to all thy churches a holy and fervent missionary spirit; and cheer them by frequent tidings, that thou art granting to the Gentiles, repentance unto life. Grant that every attempt which is made to spread thy gospel abroad, may result in the revival of pure religion at home.—O do thou give wisdom and energy to those societies and organizations which devise and direct missionary efforts. May they be composed of men of wisdom, faithfulness, and prayer; who shall have the confidence of thy people, and the favour of God, in their undertakings.—Be pleased, O Jehovah, to raise up and qualify many, who shall go forth to the benighted, to preach the everlasting gospel. Make them men of clean hands, holy hearts, and self-denying labour.—Lord, dispense thy choicest and fullest mercies on those who are now labouring among the heathen. Animate them with zeal, courage, prayer, and hope. Be thou a glory in the midst of them, and a defence around about them. Give efficacy to their plans of education, especially among the rising generation. Grant them access to the affections, judgments and consciences of those whom they instruct in temporal and spiritual knowledge; and give them the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands.

I bless thee for the success which has already crowned the work of thy servants. O let this wave-offering be the pledge of the future harvest. Though it be but as a handful of corn in the earth, upon the top of the mountains; do thou cause the fruit thereof to shake like Lebanon! Bless, I pray thee, those nations who have recently received the gospel. Be not as a stranger in their land, and as

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a wayfaring man, that turneth aside to tarry only for a night. Bear rule over them: call them by thy name; and let not thy cause suffer reproach among the heathen.

Lord, look in mercy on all who are the objects of the missionary enterprise. Stay their hands from cruelty to those who are sent to them with the gospel message. Break down every barrier of law, of prejudice, and of enmity; and cause the heathen to receive the missionary with kindness and gladness of heart. Incline their ears and open their hearts to receive that truth which is able to make them wise unto salvation: and grant that Christ may speedily have the heathen for his inneritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for nis possession.

HEAVEN.

O God, Most High, assist my feeble powers to contemplate the bliss of heaven. In that blest land the righteous shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There they shall understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Now they see through a glass darkly; but then they shall see face to face —now they know but in part; but then they shall know even as they are known. There they shall dwell in the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem, with an innumerable company of angels, and spirits of just men made perfect; and shall sing, with unwearied tongues, the new song of praise to the Lamb, who has redeemed them to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. There they shall serve God with fulness of joy, holiness of heart,

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and obedience of will: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them, the Lamb shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of waters: and thus they shall be forever with the Lord!

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the glories of the heavenly state, and that thou hast taught us how we may obtain them. Life and immortality have been brought to light by the gospel; and though the carnal eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor have entered into such heart, the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; yet thou hast revealed them to thy children, by thy Spirit, as a foretaste of that glory which shall be made known in the eternal life.—O Lord, shall I be a partaker of that blessedness? Grant that the contemplation of it may make me feel the vanity of earthly things, and lead me to set my affections on things that are heavenly and divine. May I follow after holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; and seek a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Lord, grant that visions of heavenly glory may quicken the hopes, and purify the hearts, and animate the zeal of thy chosen people. May they have thy grace in them, as a rich prelude to the joys of everlasting life. May they show by their lives, that here they have no abiding place, no continuing city; but that they seek a better, even a heavenly.—Lead them, O Lord, while they strive to work out their own salvation, to seek to bring others into the path of eternal life. Make them feel that their own happiness and glory in the future state, will be greatly increased by their turning souls unto righteousness here: for then

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they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever.

Blessed Lord, convince the worldly-minded and sinful, of the depraving and perishing nature of temporal things; and of the exalted and eternal treasures thou hast laid up in the home of the righteous. Induce them, by thy Spirit, to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil; and to seek that faith in Christ, that purity of heart, and that compliance with thy will, by which they shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be the glory of their salvation forever.

HELL.

O Lord, give me a deep conviction of the awful truth, that thou hast ordained and fixed a place of torment for all the finally impenitent—a bottomless pit, where there is the blackness of darkness—a prison, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth—a lake of fire, where the smoke of their torment ascendeth forever. There they will remember their ungodly deeds; their multiplied mercies; the riches of thy long-suffering which they despised; the instruction they hated; and their hardness and impenitence of heart, whereby they treasured unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath. There they shall have cruel fellowship with the devil and his angels: hatred and malice, and every evil passion, shall vex their souls; while around, and above, and beneath them, will be indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish!

Lord, let not my heart ever rebel against the wisdom and righteousness of thy punitive justice.

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Just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Teach me, O God, by the deep damnation of the wicked, that thou hatest sin and lovest holiness; and that thou art thus promoting the obedience and welfare of the universe, and sustaining thy character as the moral Governor of creation.

Assist me, God of Grace, to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold of eternal life, through the Saviour. But O, let me not be satisfied with my own safety. May I seek the salvation of those that are in the broad way of ruin. Impel me by keen sympathy for their danger, and love for their happiness, to put forth such efforts of prayer and labour, as shall be the means of saving some that are ready to perish.

O do thou arouse the church to a conviction of her duty to a perishing world. Let none of thy people dishonour their calling, by carelessness about the eternal welfare of the impenitent. May each one feel the powers of the world to come; and by earnest supplication, and by fervent action, strive for the blessedness of converting sinners from their dangerous ways, and of saving souls from the second death.

Lord, I beseech thee, give the wicked such views of the everlasting destruction awaiting the unrepenting sinner, as shall lead them to consider the mercy that has provided a way of escape from perdition. Persuade them, by thy terrors, to be reconciled to thee by the blood of the everlasting covenant. O make many, who now seem to be vessels of wrath, fitting for destruction, to be vessels of mercy, preparing for glory; who shall be kept by thy power, through faith, unto final salva-

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tion: where the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, which are begun on earth, shall be perfected forever.

HOLINESS.

Heavenly Father, grant me the spirit of holiness. O restore me to thy blessed image, and transform me by the renewing of my mind, that I may know thy will, and present myself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my reasonable service. Mould my character by thy word, and lead me to obey that form of doctrine which thou hast delivered to me. Make me spiritually-minded, which is life and peace. O enable me to say, "Behold, old things are passed away; all things are become new."

Lord, make me a partaker of thy holiness, and lead me in the paths of righteousness, for thy name's sake. But let me not forget that this great work is not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. My heart is by nature desperately wicked; and unless thou give me the sanctifying power of thy Spirit, I shall remain dead in trespasses and sins. Renew me, I beseech thee, in the spirit of my mind, turn me from darkness unto light, and put on me the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Blessed Lord, let me not regard iniquity in my heart, nor roll sin as a sweet morsel under my tongue. Make me feel all the motives that should deter me from transgression.—Teach me to be holy, because thou art holy.—Grant me such views of the cross of Christ, as shall lead me to hate and

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forsake sin. Thou didst choose thy saints in Christ, before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before thee in love: and he gave himself for them that he might redeem them from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people.—O may the hope of his salvation, prompt me to purify myself, even as he is pure. Make me feel the guilt, misery, and danger of sin.—Assist me to mortify the flesh with the affections and lusts thereof, that I may live in thy favour.—May I remember that the eyes of men are upon me: let me not cause thy name to be blasphemed through my transgression.—Instruct me that thy glory requires me to hate evil; for thou hast made thy people a holy nation, to show forth the praises of him who has called them from darkness into light.—O God, make me pure in heart; for without holiness no man shall see the Lord; and there shall in no wise enter into heaven, any thing that defileth.

Lord, assist me, I beseech thee, in this great duty of personal sanctification. Let thy grace be in me as a perpetual fountain of godliness. May I go from strength to strength, and may my path be as the shining light, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day. O fill me with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

HOLINESS OF GOD.

Lord, thou art glorious in holiness. There is no stain on thy will, and no spot on thy character: the righteous Lord loveth righteousness. Just, and true, and pure are all thy thoughts, purposes, and doings. Thou art of purer eyes than to counte-

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nance evil in others; and thou canst not look on sin without abhorrence. Thou art angry with the wicked every day, and thou wilt cast them, unless they repent, into everlasting destruction. Even the heavens are not clean in thy sight; and thou chargest thine angels with folly.

Blessed God, teach me the beauty of thy holiness, O, it is the life and perfection of thy character. Thou hast shown it in all thy ways—in the works of creation, which were all very good—in thy providence, by which thou hast sought to make us partakers of thy holiness—in thy grace, which teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts—in the gift of Jesus, who came to save us from the guilt and dominion of sin—in thy truth, by which we are sanctified—in the work of thy Spirit, whereby we are baptized unto righteousness:—and thou wilt show it in the awful decisions of the last day, when the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

O Lord, may a sense of thy holiness awe and control my spirit. May it dispose me to walk humbly in thy sight: for if the holy ones of heaven veil their faces before thee, it becomes me to lie in the dust, and to cry, "Guilty; unclean: God be merciful to me a sinner." Teach me that there is no communion between God and unholy spirits; and that none but the pure in heart can enjoy thy favour, or see thy face in righteousness. May I learn more and more the excellence of the Saviour whom thou hast provided for sinners: for if we were not accepted in the Beloved, none could be justified in thy sight. Cause a conviction of thy sinless perfection to fill me with reverence in all my approaches to thee; and suffer me not to forget

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that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear my supplications. O give me such contemplations of thy holiness as shall cause me to die unto sin and live unto righteousness. And may I, beholding as in a glass its glory, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory.

HOLY SPIRIT.

Blessed and Triune God, enable me to understand the character and offices of the Holy Ghost. Thou hast revealed him to us as a partner of the Deity, who exercises the attributes of the Most High, and does the works of the Almighty. O may my thoughts of him be such as become me when I meditate on the name of God. I thank thee that thou hast sent that Spirit to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Grant, O Lord, that I may share in all his blessed influences, and that they may be in me as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. May they be as showers that water the earth, imparting to my soul growth, beauty, and fruitfulness, and giving me favour in the sight of God and man.

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession. Be thou my comforter in sorrow, my strength in weakness, my shield in temptation, my teacher in ignorance, my security in joy, my leader

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in the labyrinths of life, and my consolation in the hour of death.

Lord, pour out thy Spirit on all thy servants. May they enjoy, in the fullest measure, those fruits which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, faith. Persuade them to set a high value on these things, and to seek them by fervent and believing prayer. Cause them to live in continual dependence on divine influence, and to walk worthy of the character of that Holy Agent. Make them his living temples, where there shall be the incense of prayer, praise, and holy obedience. May he sanctify their hearts, bind them closer by faith to Christ, make them wise unto salvation, and prepare them for their eternal weight of glory.

Lord, I would praise thy name for the power which the Holy Ghost has exerted over the consciences and wills of sinners, in leading them to feel their guilt and danger, and in persuading and enabling them to accept the plan of salvation. O continue and increase these manifestations of thy mercy. Let not the ungodly grieve thy Spirit, and be left to ripen for perdition. Let none wrest to their own destruction the truth, that they must be born again by the Holy Ghost: but may they make it the anchor of their hope, and receive with gladness those ministrations which are life, because of righteousness. O do thou convince, convert, and sanctify multitudes who now live after the flesh; and do thou lead them, in the exercises of a spiritual life, to glorify thy grace on earth, and enjoy the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Spirit, in heaven.

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HOME MISSIONS.

Great God, cause my heart to give a ready and fervent response to the appeals that are made to it, to send the gospel to every kindred and nation under heaven: but O let it not forget, in the excitement of foreign enterprises, the equally urgent, but less stimulating, claims of the destitute in our own borders. I thank thee that institutions have been organized to send the heralds of the cross over the length and breadth of our land, to seek out and build its waste places, and to gather and feed those that are scattered as sheep without a shepherd. But, Lord, show us that this work is but just begun; and that our increasing population greatly outruns the supply of the means of grace: that in many places thy precious word, thy holy day, and thy sanctifying worship, are not known, or are but little regarded; while infidelity and lewdness, profanity and intemperance, Sabbath-breaking and fraud, are spreading, like infection, throughout communities.

O let the work of domestic missions commend itself to the patronage and prayers of the wise and good of all classes. May the patriot regard it as the prosperity of the country; the philanthropist further it as the welfare of humanity; and the Christian prosecute it as the temporal and eternal well-being of the people. Let those who are supplied with the institutions of the gospel, gladly send them to the destitute; and let those who are without them, be excited to seek, and welcome, and help to sustain them in their midst.

God of Missions, give increased success to the efforts already made in this glorious cause. Bring many other labourers up to the help of the Lord, in

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the contest with ignorance, error, and vice. Establish a pastor in every destitute neighbourhood. Let the Bible, the Sabbath, the Sunday-school, and the sanctuary, dispense their riches wherever there is a people in want of them. And let thine enduring favour rest upon every such labour of love.

Lord, grant, for Jesus' sake, that the voice of instruction, of praise, and of prayer, may abide in every city, and village, and hamlet, and household, in our wide and flourishing country.

HONESTY.

Lord, dispose me to render to all their dues. Implant such a sense of justice in my bosom, that I shall willingly give to my fellow-creatures, of every rank, all their lawful and moral rights. Let not selfishness exalt itself against the dictates of integrity; nor covetousness violate the duties of uprightness. Rebuke in me that love of lucre, whether it be in small things or in great, which would lead me to forego the demands of rectitude for the desires of dishonesty. Grant me, if it seem good to thee, that moderate competence, and contentment with it, which will raise me above the temptations of poverty. But do thou assure me, that the wealth, which I sometimes covet, neither satisfies the soul, nor elevates its sense of justice, but begets raging desire and clamorous injustice.

Heavenly Father, make me prompt in the discharge of my obligations; especially to the poor. Let me owe no man any thing, without his cheerful consent. Or if misfortune or disappointment deny me the present ability to discharge the claims of creditors, let no evasive plea nor legal subterfuge release me from the conviction of indebtedness, and

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the purpose of recompense. Great God, may I remember the wo of him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; and the reward of him that walketh righteously, and despiseth the gain of oppressions, and shaketh his hand from holding bribes—he shall dwell on high; his defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his water shall be sure; his name shall be as ointment poured forth, and his memory shall be blessed.

HOPE.

Lord, grant me a good hope through grace. May it be the fruit of thy Spirit, and be rooted and grounded in that faith by which we receive the atonement of the Messiah: for other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid in Jesus Christ. May it be a hope that maketh not ashamed; that purifieth the heart; that is a helmet of salvation; and an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which enters into that within the veil, and rejoices in the expectation of the glory of God. O may it prompt me to seek to bring others into the same fellowship of joy, that we together may share the promise of life.

Teach the wicked, O God, that a door of hope has been opened for the chief of sinners:—a way of access to pardon, in which thou canst be just, and still be the justifier of them that believe in Jesus. Let not their hearts be deceived by those hopes of earthly good, which are either blasted in their bud, or ripen into bitter fruit. Show them that the expectation of the wicked shall perish, and that the trust of the hypocrite shall be as the spider's web: while the hope of the righteous shall

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be gladness and assurance forever. I pray thee bring many sinners to the footstool of thy throne, to learn the blessedness of putting their confidence in the blood of the everlasting covenant; from which only can they receive the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

HOSPITALITY.

Lord, give me the spirit of hospitality. Grant me a heart of generosity, that will take pleasure in reciprocating the kindness of domestic life, and in supplying the wants of the stranger and the destitute. May I remember that some, in so doing, have entertained angels unawares; and that thou hast said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thou hast commanded us to use hospitality, without grudging; and hast promised that those who do so, shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Lord, thou art good to all: thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Even thine enemies share richly in thy bounty. Incline me, therefore, to be merciful, even as thou art merciful. Lead me to do good, and to communicate; for with such sacrifices thou art well-pleased. Dispose me to be an almoner of thy bounty. As I have freely received, so may I freely give.

HUMAN DEPRAVITY.

Lord, thou didst create man, after thine own image, in knowledge and holiness; but he fell from the estate wherein he was created, by sinning against God; and now, by his fall, all mankind have lost communion with God, are under thy wrath and curse, and are made liable to all the miseries of this

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life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever. Thou didst indeed make man upright; but he has sought out many inventions. His gold has become dim, and his most fine gold is changed. And now the heart of the sons of men is full of evil: the carnal mind is enmity against God: they are all gone out of the way: there is none righteous; no, not one. O Lord, everywhere I behold the records of human depravity. The pages of history, the experience of my own heart, the witness of my eyes, and the news brought on every breeze, tell me that man is a sinner. And yet for every spark of sin in the outward life of every man, there has been a raging flame of transgression in his hidden nature. O let not my mind be swayed from this truth, because there are some, who in their natural and unredeemed state, seem to be not far from the kingdom of God: for if thou hadst not controlled their characters, and shaped their destinies, they also had been the vilest of the vile. Suffer me not, in my intercourse with children, to suppose, from their comparative innocence and docility, that they are not depraved: for O, thy testimony against them is, that they go astray from the womb; and that folly is bound up in their hearts.

Lord, give me an ever-present conviction of this solemn doctrine, that I may watch and pray against the evil tendencies of my own heart, and also look with earnest anxiety on the condition of those, who have not been brought to know and forsake their iniquities. Enable me to realize its nature and extent—to understand that the most unsanctified selfishness has usurped the sceptre which God should sway in the heart; and that all men are, in their natural character, utterly destitute of holiness, and

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entirely sinful. Lord, permit not my thoughts to impeach thy wisdom, or justice, or holiness, when I meditate on this truth; for thou hast laid no stern necessity on us that we should sin: and we, we only, are guilty before thee in our transgressions. O God, take away this stony heart out of my flesh, and give me a heart of flesh. Subdue the corruption of my nature, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Blessed Lord, convince the wicked of their deep-rooted depravity; and that unless they are born again, they must be shut out of the kingdom of God. Show them that they have destroyed themselves; while in thee only is their help. Teach them that thou hast sought their repentance by the every-day mercies of life, by the offers of pardon, and by the threats of vengeance: and yet they have abused thy gifts, and turned a deaf ear to thine entreaties and warnings. Show them that the way of the wicked is darkness, and the end thereof eternal death: while the path of the just is as the shining light, and his reward a blissful eternity. Whilst thou art revealing to them the enormity of their guilt, show them the surpassing extent of the redemption thou hast provided for it. O may thy Spirit transform their corrupt wills, and renew their depraved affections. Save them by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; that being sanctified by grace, they shall be made partakers of thy holiness, and heirs of eternal life.

HUMILITY.

Heavenly Father, give me such views of thine infinite excellence, and of my unworthiness, as shall humble me in the dust before thee. Thou art the

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infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Jehovah; and all thine attributes and works are excellent and glorious. But as for us, we dwell on the footstool of thy dominion, and live every moment at the expense of thy goodness. We are ignorant; not knowing what a day may bring forth. We are helpless; not being able to make one hair white or black. We are by nature the children of wrath; and even in our best estate, when thy Spirit has wrought upon our hearts, it becomes us to say, "God be merciful to us, sinners." Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Lord, I would remember that he who was the brightness of his Father's glory, abased himself, and led a life of trial and reproach, and suffered a death of cruelty and shame. O God, make me a follower of him who was thus meek and lowly. Lo, the angels of heaven veil their faces before thee, in expressive token of inferiority and unworthiness. How much more should I humble myself in thy holy presence. Thanks be to thy name, this which is my duty, is also my privilege. Thou hast given thy promise to humility; saying, that he who humbleth himself shall be exalted. Thou hast been pleased to put matchless and unspeakable honour on it, by making the contrite heart thy dwelling-place. O may this grace control my life. May it dwell in my heart, teaching me my proper character. May it pervade my walk, leading me to meekness of speech and action, and controlling my spirit, both in prosperity and in adversity. May it fit me for doing thy holy will in all things.

Lord, clothe all thy followers with humility. Make them feel their infinite disparity with thee.

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May they, in lowliness of mind, esteem others better than themselves. Let them not be high-minded, but fear: and while they think they stand, may they take heed lest they fall. May they look back to the hole of the pit whence they were digged. Teach them that thou hatest the pride of man; and that thou wilt give the kingdom of heaven to those only who are poor in spirit.

HYPOCRISY.

God of Truth, let a sense of thy presence, and a regard for thy will, preserve me from the odious sin of hypocrisy. Let me not insult thee with a lip-service, while my heart is far from thee: nor with a form of compliance with thy law, while my soul pursues the carnal pleasures of earth. Thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked; because thou searchest all hearts, and understandest all the imaginations of the thoughts. O make me feel both the folly and vileness of this transgression. Thou hast said that the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, and that his trust shall be as the spider's web. Thou hatest them that cover up their wickedness; who are like whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but within are full of dead men's bones, and all manner of uncleanness. God forbid that I should have only the name, without the character, of godliness. Make thou my life the symbol of my heart, and my heart the living record of thy commandments.

Keep me, O God, from hypocrisy towards my fellow-creatures. Restrain me from desiring or attempting to make any deceptive impression on them. Let no guile be found in my tongue, nor affectation of righteousness in my walk. Let me not outwardly

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appear righteous to men, while within I am full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Keep me from a deceitful mind and flattering lips, and from all disposition to make or love a lie. Let not my heart be set on the applause or patronage of men; but on the favour of God, and on that final plaudit: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

IDOLATRY.

Great God, look in mercy on those who are bowing down to gods which their own hands have made, or worshipping the things thou hast created, and which are dependent on thee for their being. O Lord, further every effort that is made to spread light among the dark places of the earth. May brightness spring up to them that sit in the region and shadow of death. Cause the isles to wait for thy law, and the Gentiles to come to thy light. Bring many from the east and the west, who shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. Say to the north, "Give up;" and to the south, "Hold not back." Bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the ends of the earth. Make the wilderness and solitary place to be glad; and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.—Lord, teach the heathen that the Godhead is not like unto gold, or silver, or stone; graven by art or man's device. May they learn the folly and wickedness of their worship, and casting their idols to the moles and the bats, honour and serve the living God.—Lord, thou seest that this harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Send forth labourers into it, who shall be the means of dispelling every form of superstition, and spreading

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the day-spring of thy gospel: until every heart shall be an altar, and every tongue a voice of praise, unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever.

Blessed Lord, keep my own heart from idolatry. Thou art God; and beside thee there is none other. Suffer me not to idolize the world, nor any thing that is in the world. Let no created good supplant thy dominion over my heart. Let no object of affection divert from thee that supreme love which I owe thee, as my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. What concord hath Christ with Belial? what agreement should the temple of God have with idols? Be thou to me my all, and in all. Persuade and control my soul to acknowledge thee as the only true God, and my God; and to worship and glorify thee accordingly.

IMMORTALITY.—*See Eternity, Heaven, Hell, Soul.*

IMMUTABILITY OF GOD.

Thou, Lord, in the beginning, hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old, as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. In all the perfections of thy nature there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Thou hast been the hope of the fathers; and thou art the God of their seed after them—thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations; and thou wilt be their surety for good continually. Thy promises are Yea and Amen, in Christ Jesus.

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And thy decrees of salvation, or of condemnation, stand fast forever. O Lord, make me feel my own fickleness of heart and mind, and my uncertainty of being, that I may be better prepared to adore and trust thee as the unchangeable God.

INCOMPREHENSIBLENESS OF GOD.

Who can, by searching, find out God? Thou dwellest in light that no man can approach unto. The knowledge of thee is high as heaven; deeper than hell—and the measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. The thunder of thy power who can understand? The number of thy years cannot be searched out. Thine understanding is infinite. Thou doest great things, past finding out, and wonders without number. Thy way is in the sea, thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. But greater than all things else is the mystery of godliness; God manifest in the flesh, to reconcile the world unto himself, and make reconciliation for the sins of the people. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are thy judgments, and thy ways past finding out. Great Jehovah, help me to bow before thee with mingled sensations of adoration, fear, humility, and love.

INDEPENDENCY OF GOD.

Thou art the uncreated, self-existent, independent Jehovah. Who hath been thy counsellor; who hath taught thee the path of judgment; or showed thee the way of understanding?—Thou hast stretched forth the heavens alone, and spread the earth by thyself: thou faintest not, neither art weary with labour: thou art everlasting strength.—Thou need-

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est not the wisdom nor power of any, to help thee in the measures of thy government; for they are all thy creatures, and thy counsel standeth forever. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; every beast of the forest being thine, with the cattle upon a thousand hills; and thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things: yea, thou art exalted above blessing and praise.

Lord, make me understand that I am dependent on thee for life, for hope, for blessing, for every thing. O dispose me to seek thee, as the source of every right feeling, and the fountain of every pure joy. Of thee, and through thee, and unto thee, are all things; to whom be glory forever.

INFIDELITY.

God of Light, destroy those various forms of infidelity which exalt themselves against God and truth; and which are gathering snares and destruction upon multitudes of immortal souls. Teach all men that these delusions are the offspring of human depravity and ignorance, and the fruitful sources of misery, vice, and ruin. They who cherish them love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; and they choose the fruits of death, rather than come to thee, and obtain life. They walk in the vanity of their minds, having their understandings darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them; because of the blindness of their hearts. Religion would not suffer their enmity, if it were not the foe of sin: nor would the world hate thee, if thou didst not testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Yet, O Lord, have not the dissensions and sins of those who profess thy name, greatly contributed

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to increase the scepticism of the unbelieving heart? O how has the cause of Christ been wounded in the house of his friends! Take away, I beseech thee, every root of bitterness from thy church; and cause thy people so to live, that even the infidel shall be led to glorify our Father in heaven.

Blessed God, I thank thee that thy word has been made stronger by every effort to undermine it; and brighter by every endeavour to tarnish it. Scatter, I pray thee, every mist of error and sin, by the light of truth; and bring all mankind to submit their judgments, and bow their wills, to the teachings of thy written word. Give it victory over all that pollutes, and degrades, and ruins man—in behalf of all that purifies, exalts, and saves him. May it subdue his understanding to truth, his habits to righteousness, and his heart to a peace, which the world can neither give nor take away.

INQUIRERS.

Merciful God, dispose many to ask the fearfully solemn and important question, "What must I do to be saved?" Fasten in the minds of such a thorough conviction of the exceeding guilt of sin. May thy Spirit show them its enormity, as committed against the Author of their being, and the Giver of their mercies. Make them feel their wretched condition, in being without hope and without God in the world, with thy wrath abiding on them. Show them their own inability to save themselves, and that their every effort, that is not seconded and sanctified by the Spirit, sinks them deeper in their condemnation. Set clearly before their minds the necessity and value of salvation through the blood of Jesus: for they that reject it, shall perish with

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an everlasting destruction, while they who accept it, shall be redeemed from the dominion and penalty of sin, and be blessed with the favour of a reconciled God forever. O give them earnest desires for that redemption; desires that spring from convictions of the worth of the soul—the wrath of an offended Judge—the tender love of a dying and interceding Saviour—the bliss that shall be revealed to the saints above—and the glory of the Most High, who will cause their salvation to praise him. Lord, make them fearful of grieving away the strivings of thy Spirit. Let them not be deluded by the vain hope of a more convenient season. Impress, with a living freshness, upon their hearts, that now is the accepted time, and this the day of salvation. Say to them that thirst, "Come ye to the waters: yea, come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price: eat ye that which is good, and let your souls delight themselves in fatness." Let none of them draw back to perdition. Enable them at once, and forever, to renounce their transgressions, and to receive and rest upon Jesus alone for salvation. Let the Holy Ghost lead them into the knowledge of truth—preserve them from the power of error—give them peace in believing—and fill them with a holy zeal to advance thy cause and fulfil thy will, in all the duties of religion.

INTEMPERANCE.

Lord, I beseech thee, in the name of Jesus, to banish from our land, and from the world, the causes and evils of intemperance. Reclaim those that are now wandering in the paths of drunkenness; recover them whose feet are running in the way of temptation; and throw thy merciful restraint and

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protection over those who are yet untainted by this destroying vice. O do thou enlighten mankind as to its nature and remedy; enlist against it the full-hearted and persevering opposition of children and youth; and bring up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, the good of every name and nation.

May all men learn that alcohol, the intoxicating ingredient of spirituous liquors, is not the gift of God, but the product of man's selfishness; that as a drink it is not necessary nor useful, but hurtful and poisonous. Teach them that it diseases the body, weakens and paralyzes the understanding, stupifies the conscience, and hardens the heart. O, how has it destroyed property, time, happiness, and life—and filled the world with poverty, misery, and crime—and dragged down to everlasting perdition souls that otherwise might have been brought within the reach of the gospel, and have been made heirs of eternal life!

Lord, I thank thee for the efforts which have been made to stay these desolations, and for the success which has thus far crowned the temperance reformation. But I would feel that there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed. Alas, there is still a fearful residue of this evil to be removed. O may the zeal of the efforts already put forth in this benevolent scheme, be continued and greatly increased. Establish the principle that total abstinence from every thing that can intoxicate, is that alone which, with the blessing of God, will redeem and preserve our race from the fearful evils of intemperance. O do thou remove the causes of this vice; and let there be none to make, nor sell, nor buy the hurtful poison. Dispose our lawgivers to take away the protection and sanction of law from

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this traffic in the bodies and souls of men; and to enact such statutes as will dry up these fountains of poverty and wretchedness, crime and death. Do thou inform and purify public sentiment everywhere in relation to the great and vital interests of temperance. Then, O Lord, our hearts will rejoice that the merciless destroyer has been banished, to give place to health, industry, individual and public welfare, and the triumphs of the gospel.

INTERCESSION.

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that we have an advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on high, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. He hath not entered into the holy place made with hands; but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us; where he ever liveth to make intercession for his chosen generation. Blessed Jesus, I rejoice that thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; that though Satan hath desired to have thy people, that he might sift them as wheat, yet thou prayest for them, that their faith fail not: and that thou art their Mediator, to present their believing prayers, and secure their acceptance, at the throne of the heavenly mercy.

Lord, lead me, in the faith of that intercession, to the sceptre of thy grace, persuaded that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to supply me with all that I need. Assist me to draw nigh, with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith: for we have not an high-priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; and who is able to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. O Jesus,

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Blessed Mediator, take my cause into thine own hands. Plead my interests for me, by thy spotless life, thy bleeding wounds, thy cruel death, and thy purchased glory; and enable me to rejoice in thy success, and to bless thy holy name forever.

Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a strong and an abiding spirit of intercessory prayer. Dispose me to make supplication for all men. Make it my privilege to commend to thee all that are near and dear to me; that thou wouldst guide them by thy counsel, protect them by thy power, and save them by thy grace. Lead me to pray for my enemies, for the needy, the afflicted, the sick, and the dying. Incline me to lift up earnest supplication on behalf of thy church. Especially, O Lord, may the yearn ings of my heart go forth for the impenitent. Make me feel that the triumphs of thy church will depend on the importunity of thy people for mercy on the ungodly. O may I understand their awful condition, and be induced to plead with thee, in the name of Christ, and through the intercessions of thy Spirit, that they may be saved. Give me that degree of confidence in thee, and regard for thy glory, and such earnest longings after their conversion, as thou wilt own and bless, by the redemption of souls.

JEWS.

Merciful God, seek and save the lost sheep of the house of Israel, whose history thou hast made the monument of thy justice, and the seal of thy truth. Look in mercy on thine ancient covenant people, who are scattered and peeled, and who have become a by-word, and a term of reproach, among the nations of the earth. How long, O Lord, shall thy goodness delay towards those to whom were once

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committed the lively oracles; and of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came? Do thou use such instrumentalities as shall bring them to feel their blindness of mind and hardness of heart, in rejecting Jesus; and may they look to him from the ends of the earth, and be saved. Lord, confirm the evidences of the truth of the gospel, and glorify thy Son, by bringing them into the blessings of the new covenant. For if the fall of them was the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fulness! Thou hast not indeed cast away thy people, whom thou didst foreknow. They shall turn to thee, when the vail shall be taken away. Assemble, I pray thee, the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth. Bid these dry bones hear the word of the Lord; and breathe on these slain, that they may live. O Lord, hasten that time, when, through the mercy bestowed on us, they also shall obtain mercy; and when, with the fulness of the Gentiles, all Israel shall be saved!

JESUS CHRIST.

Blessed Father, teach me thy truth as it is in Jesus. Grant that I may love it, and feed upon it; and that I may teach it by my lips, and manifest it by my conduct to others.—Alas, our race, which thou didst make but a little lower than the angels, fell from the noble and happy condition in which it was created, by sinning against thee: and when thou didst look from heaven, upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, or seek after God; behold! they were altogether become filthy: there was none that did good; no

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not one. Yet thou didst not cast them off; but in the counsels of thy mercy, didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer; even the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, that he might redeem us from the curse of the law, in being made a curse for us; and that we might have salvation through his blood.—O Lord, we exercised no penitence of heart that could have prompted thee to this display of compassion; and there was nothing in our character which could give thee any delight. It was sovereign, unsearchable, unmerited grace that formed and perfected the plan of redemption. Thou didst indeed commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us!

(*Deity.*)—Great God, enable me to make Christ, and him crucified, the primary object of study and faith. Give me heartfelt and precious views of his character and offices. May I regard him as that Word, which was in the beginning with God, and was GOD; and which was made flesh, and dwelt on earth, full of grace and truth. O suffer me never to doubt that in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. To him belongs eternity; for he was before all things. He is the creator; for without him was not any thing made that was made. To him pertains dominion; he upholds all things by the word of his power. He is everywhere present; since where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is in the midst of them. His understanding is infinite; for he knows the hearts of all men.—He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father, which hath sent him.—Blessed Jesus, if thy disciples worshipped thee, as

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the Searcher of hearts and the Saviour of souls—if all the angels of heaven cry unto thee, "Blessing and honour, glory and power"—well may I acknowledge and proclaim thee, as the living and true God!

(*Prophet.*)—Lord, assist me to receive Christ as my Teacher. May he reveal to me, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for my salvation. May I learn of him, who spake as never man spake, and who taught as one having authority. Let me remember that if I hearken not to his words, thou wilt require it of me: for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not I escape, if I turn from him that speaketh from heaven. O put his law into my mind, and write it in my heart. Let its entrance give light and love, zeal and purity to my soul. Lord, let it not be a savour of death unto death, but of life unto life.

(*Priest.*)—Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to

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God.—Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord, convince me that forgiveness is granted only for his sake: there being no other name given among men whereby they can be saved. Teach me that his costly sacrifice was not needed to make thee willing to be reconciled to us; for it was the fruit of thy love: but because thou wouldst maintain thy justice, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, and his deliverer from the wrath to come. Heavenly Father, show me by this office of Christ's mission, the lost condition of human nature, and the wonders of thy justice and love. May it be the most cherished object of my contemplation, and fill my spirit with adoration and thanksgiving, love and obedience. May I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live, not unto myself, but unto him; and that both living and dying I should be the Lord's.—[*See* INTERCESSION.]

(*King.*)—Great God, I pray thee, make me willing to receive Christ not only as my Saviour, but as my Sovereign, to subdue me to himself, to rule and defend me, and to restrain and conquer all his and my enemies. O may I regard his service greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Thou hast set him at thy right hand, that at his name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess; and hast given unto him the keys of death and hell, with all power in heaven and earth. His throne is forever and ever. Thou wilt break them with a rod of iron,

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who will not have thy Son to reign over them, and wilt dash them in pieces, as a potter's vessel. Thou wilt make him Governor among the nations, and give him the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. O hasten that day.—Lord, lead my thoughts often to that consummation of Christ's sovereignty, when he shall come in his glory, to judge the quick and the dead. O may he then be my Saviour King, and I be a redeemed vassal of his everlasting kingdom.

(*Example.*)—Jehovah God, incline me to make Jesus my example in all the duties of life. May the same mind that was in him, be also in me. Lead me to walk even as he walked; for he that followeth not after him is not worthy of him. May I look unto him as my pattern of patience and humility, prayer and faith, long-suffering and benevolence. May I strive to purify myself even as Christ is pure; and beholding, as in a glass, his glory, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

(*Union.*)—Lord, unite me to Christ by a living faith, even as the branch is united to the vine. Make me a new creature in him. May I receive of his fulness, and grace for grace. May he be to me that bread from heaven that giveth eternal life; and be formed in my heart the hope of glory. Make me a member of that body, of which Christ is the head. Build me upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone; in whom the whole building, fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple of the Lord. O may my life be hid with Christ in God; that he

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may be made unto me, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Lord, suffer me not to be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus. Teach me to regard it as my highest honour, to have communion with the Spirit, and fellowship in the service, of my blessed Saviour. Make him my all in all: my song in the season of rejoicing, and my hope in the hour of trial. God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ.

God of Mercy, do thou present the character and offices of Jesus to the minds of the unconverted, so that they may be convinced that they are transgressors, and be persuaded to trust in him for salvation. O may thy Spirit apply to them the redemption purchased in him, by convincing them of their sin and misery, enlightening their minds in the knowledge of Christ, renewing their wills, and persuading and enabling them to embrace Jesus, freely offered to them in the gospel.—[*See* CHRISTMAS.]

JOY.

Lord of Blessedness, grant me that joy of faith, that rejoicing of hope, which is a fruit of thy Spirit. Give me a full and rich experience of the sources of this bliss—which indeed are not broken cisterns, that can hold no water, but fountains full to overflowing, with the healing stream of life.—Lord, reveal thyself unto me, as thou dost not unto the world, and fill my heart with pleasure in learning thy character, and in communing with thy love.—Enable me to rejoice in Christ, and in the forgiveness of sin through him, with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.—Give me that blessed spirit of adoption, by which I may cry "Abba, Father."—May

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the Holy Ghost give life to my hope, and strength to my rejoicing.—Cause me to rejoice in thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.—May I love the habitation of thy house, and find more comfort in thy tabernacles than in the tents of wickedness.—Let all the means of grace be to my spirit as rain upon the new-mown grass, and as showers that water the earth.—Make it my privilege to verify thy word, that it is more blessed to give than to receive; for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and he that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully.—Grant me the peace of a conscience that is void of offence towards God and man.—Make the communion of saints an abundant source of refreshment and strength to my Christian graces.—May the triumphs of thy gospel give me more pleasure than the wicked have when their carnal luxuries do most abound. —O Lord, comfort and bless my soul by the contemplation of that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, that remains for the people of God, in heaven.

Lord, grant that my spiritual enjoyments may excite me to gratitude, and lead me to open my lips, that my mouth may show forth thy praise. May others be led by my cheerful happiness, to taste and see that the Lord is good. When thou enlargest my heart, teach me to run in the way of thy commandments. Enable me to say in the hour of trial and suffering—"None of these things move me; neither count I my life dear, so that I may finish my course with joy." And, O when heart and flesh shall faint and fail, in the struggle of death, may thy rod and staff comfort me: and be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

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JUDGMENT.

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance —the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand —"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire,

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prepared for the devil and his angels:" and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

JUSTICE OF GOD.

O Most High, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Of a truth thou art no respecter of persons: thy law is holy, and thy government upright. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.—I would adore and praise thee, O Lord, that thou didst maintain and magnify the excellency of thy justice, in giving thy Son, to repair by his own blood, the violated law; and thus to make it more honourable in the redemption of the transgressor, than in his hopeless condemnation.

O Lord, show me, in the light of this attribute, the glory of thy dispensation of the gospel, in which thou canst be just, and the justifier of even the worst of sinners, who believe in Jesus. But, may I learn from it also, that thou wilt be to the finally impenitent, a consuming fire. May the knowledge of it prevent me from neglecting or violating the rights of my fellow-creatures, and lead me to render that which is just and equal, to all men. Let the threatened retributions of thy judgment warn me against transgression, and dispose me to seek conformity to thy will.

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Lord, cause a sense of thy justice to alarm the fears of the ungodly. Make them know that they are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath, and righteous revelation of the judgment of God. Lead them now to bow to thy sceptre, which is still the symbol of mercy; but which ere long may become the instrument of destruction. I pray thee, redeem them from the curse of the law, and give them the adoption of sons, through the righteousness of Christ.

JUSTIFICATION.

Blessed Lord, give me clear, and scriptural, and saving views of that justification, which is a cardinal doctrine of the gospel, and an essential and life-giving principle of personal piety. Teach me that it is an act of thy free grace, wherein thou pardonest all our sins, and acceptest us as righteous, in thy sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Show me that in it thou hast displayed thy holiness, satisfied thy justice, and magnified thy law—Christ being made the end of the law, to every one that believeth. Instruct me that by the deeds of the law, no flesh living shall be justified; but only by the faith of Jesus; in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses and sins.

Lord, justify me freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. In his merits, acquit me from the punishment I deserve for my transgressions, and give me a title to those blessings which I would have received through thy law, if I had fulfilled it in sinless obedience. O may I ever be found in him, not having on mine own

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righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is by the faith of him, unto all and upon all that believe. Grant that I may have peace with thee, and access to thy throne, with confidence of acceptance, in the Beloved. Give me faith in him as a living, as well as a dying Saviour—he being risen again for our justification. May I know him in whom I have believed, as my atoning sacrifice; and be persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. And grant, O Lord, that my hope of forgiveness and favour, in the blood of the Redeemer, may result in that open acknowledgment and acquittal, in the day of judgment, which will be followed by everlasting glory.

Lord, let the question, "How shall men be just with God?" agitate the minds of those that have not made their peace with thee. May thy spirit answer it, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." And do thou give this truth such convincing and persuading power, that many shall accept and rest on Christ, as the only and all-sufficient hope of salvation.

KNOWLEDGE.

Great God, I thank thee for those powers of mind thou hast bestowed on the human race, which raise us so far above the brutes that perish, and which fit us to acquire and use rational knowledge. Lord, make me understand and practice the duties which belong to the possession of these powers. I pray thee, cultivate suitably in me, each of the faculties of my mind. Enlighten my judgment, strengthen my memory, and inform my understanding. Keep me from error, and guide me into truth. Especially do thou show me, O Lord, the path of

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life, and grant me that wisdom which leads to salvation. Instruct me in all the duties I owe to men, to myself, and to thee. While I am careful to educate my faculties, make me mindful of the weakness and failings of human judgment. Let me not lean on my own understanding, but trust in the living God. O do thou so discipline my thoughts, that I may be fitted to enjoy the pleasures of knowledge, in that holy region, where there is no cloud of ignorance nor of error, and where the light of truth fills and surrounds all its blessed inhabitants.

LAW OF GOD.

I thank thee, Great God, for that law of nature, impressed on my conscience, by which I am left without excuse, in the transgression of thy will. But I would praise thee still more, that thou hast given me the law of thy word, to convince me of sin, to warn and restrain me, and to lead me in the ways that are well-pleasing in thy sight. Thy commandment, O Lord, is holy, just, and good. Thou art holy; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul—thou art just; wherefore thy judgments are true and righteous altogether—thou art good; and thy statutes rejoice the heart; for in keeping them there is great reward. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, until all be fulfilled.

Incline me, O Lord, to take heed to my ways, according to thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Make thou thy testimonies my delight and counsellors; my songs in the house of my pilgrimage, and the daily monitors of my conduct. May I make

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thy will my meditation by day, and my remembrance in the night. Make it a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path; and do thou incline my heart to perform thy statutes always, even to the end. Impress deeply on my mind that solemn truth—whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all.

Lord, teach me that thy commandment is exceeding broad and deep: that it has relation not only to the actions of life, but to the hidden workings of thought and feeling. For though the sound of my lips, and the work of my hands, may be right before men; yet thy statutes may condemn the thoughts of my heart; and I may stand more guilty in thy sight, for secret sin, than for open violations of thy will.

Heavenly Father, let not my regard for thy commandment create within me a spirit of self-righteousness: for in the trial of thy justice, every mouth shall be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God. Make it a schoolmaster to bring me to Christ, as my only hope of justification. May I remember, that while it is the rule of my obedience, it is not the plan of salvation. He who came to fulfil it, is himself the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth.

O Lord, make thy law the sword of the Spirit in thy dealings with the impenitent. May it awaken and alarm their consciences, enlighten and convince their minds, and persuade and sanctify their wills; so that they may be born, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

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LEVITY.

Lord, keep me from levity of spirit and behaviour. Thou knowest my proneness to this sin; and how ready I am to yield to that frivolity which characterizes the careless and unconverted; and which is so inconsistent with the solemn realities of the Christian life. Help me, I beseech thee, through the Saviour, to repent of it, and so turn away from it in future, as to avoid the appearance of evil.

Lord, let not my thoughts cherish those subjects which excite levity of speech or action. I pray thee especially, to lay a restraint on my tongue, that unruly member; and dispose me to avoid studiously saying any thing which may dissipate serious impressions, or make me a stumbling-block in the path of others, or cause the ways of religion to be despised or reviled. Enable me to attain and cultivate that happy medium between moroseness and frivolity, that calm seriousness of mind and holy cheerfulness of life, which will diffuse a savour of piety in all I say and do.

Great God, do thou show me that the rational faculties with which thou hast endowed me, were given for higher and holier purposes, than for indulgence in a light and frivolous demeanour.—Seriously impress on my mind, that a disposition to trifle is a fruitful cause of disquietude in the soul, and of delinquency in the life. May I reflect that the eyes of the church, and of the world, are upon me; and that according as I demean myself, so will the cause of religion be advanced or hindered.—Let a sense of thy presence control me to live as one professing godliness.—O, incline me, I pray thee, to order all

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my walk and conversation, so that I may be a living illustration of the sober influences of piety.

LIBERTY.

Lord, increase my gratitude to thee for the blessings of liberty. While millions of the human race are groaning under the yoke of oppression, thou hast, in undeserved mercy, given to me the privileges of civil and religious freedom. O let me not abuse them, nor deny them to others, who are destitute of them. Give me strong sympathy for the down-trodden of every name and nation. Dispose me to desire, and pray, and labour for the extension of freedom to all mankind. Enlighten the consciences and cleanse the hearts of all men, in relation to the great doctrines of human rights. Do thou fan, and purify, and spread the fire of truth, until it shall melt off every fetter from every limb—until deliverance shall be preached to all the captives, and liberty be proclaimed to all the oppressed.

O Lord, release men everywhere, from the bondage of sin. Break the yoke of Satan, of the world, and of selfishness. May thy Son make mankind free, and they shall be free indeed: so shall they be servants to God only, that their fruit may be holiness, and the end everlasting life.

LIFE.

Lord, thou art the Author and Owner of my life. Apart from thy will, I can have no existence; and if it should please thee to revoke my title to being, in that moment I would be blotted from the face of creation.—Instruct me, I pray thee, in the uncertainty and shortness of human life. We are but of yesterday, and our days upon earth are a shadow.

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Our breath is in our nostrils: it is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.—Teach me that my span of life is given me as my probation for eternity. Grant, therefore, that I may walk circumspectly; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. While I grow in age, enable me to grow in grace. While I travel through this wilderness, guide me by the fiery-cloudy pillar, feed my hunger with manna from heaven, and quench my thirst with water from the smitten rock. Lord, let me not be anxious for length of days; nor grow weary of my season of trial. Make me contented that my seasons are in thy hands, and willing to wait all the days of my appointed time, till my change come. Give me, I beseech thee, in all the vicissitudes of life, such preparation of heart, that whether I live, I may live to the Lord; or whether I die, I may die to the Lord: so that whether living or dying, I may be the Lord's.

Heavenly Father, may the considerations that life is short, and that it involves the destinies of eternity, excite those who are now thoughtless about their eternal peace, to number their days, that they may apply their hearts unto wisdom: even that wisdom which will lead them to live for the glory of him who died for their salvation; and which will also prepare them to depart, and be with Christ, which is far better.

LONG-SUFFERING.—*See Forbearance.*

LORD'S SUPPER.

Compassionate Jehovah, give me lively perceptions of the nature and uses of that holy Supper, which thou hast instituted in memory of the dying

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Saviour. May it always be to the eye of my faith, a token and pledge of a covenant of mercy, in the blood of Christ. Let it ever be my Eucharist—my giving of thanks to thee, from a heart overflowing with gratitude, that thou didst recover man from his condition of sin and misery, by the gift of a Redeemer. Make it my Passover, in which my soul shall be made joyful, in being exempted from the wrath which abideth on the ungodly. O let it be the Sacrament of that allegiance to thy cause, which will lead me to rejoice when I am counted worthy to suffer shame for thy name's sake; and to glory in nothing, save in the cross of Christ. Make it a Feast, at which he shall sup with me, and I with him; and in which my heart shall be refreshed by his spiritual presence. And O do thou make it a precious season of Communion, wherein I shall hold fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and be knit, with closer bands of unity, to them that are of the household of faith.

Lord Jesus, help me to keep this ordinance in remembrance of thee. Give me knowledge to discern thy body, and faith to feed upon thee. Grant me repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, I eat and drink judgment to myself. Make me a partaker of thy body and blood, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith; with all thy benefits, to my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Grant me comfort from this feast, when I am wounded by a sense of sin; for thou wast revealed to take away sin: give me patience in trials and afflictions, by looking at thee, enduring the contradiction of sinners, and the hidings of thy Father's love: and O grant that I may imbibe a holy hatred for transgression, when I look at thy

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body broken and thy blood shed, because I have sinned.—Blessed Jesus, crowned in light and glory, dost thou indeed desire us sinners to remember thee? O that we should ever forget thy matchless, unspeakable claims to our love! O help me to remember the glory thou didst leave, the flesh thou didst adopt, the reproach thou didst meet, and the sufferings thou didst endure, that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law, and be made a partner of thine inheritance in glory! I would learn of thee, as my Prophet; I would rely on thee, as my Priest; I would follow thee, as my Example; I would obey thee, as my King!

Heavenly Father, make thy people feel their obligation to celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Thou hast commanded it, and made it the badge of their discipleship. Thou hast set it forth to be the memorial of a Saviour's love, in which they show forth his death, before heaven and earth. And thou hast made it a special season of communion with thee, in thy banqueting-house, where thy banner over them is love.—O may they always be prepared for this service, by self-examination, by meditation, and by prayer: and so let them eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. May they resolve, upon that sacred altar, that they will renounce every transgression, and live only for that which is good in thy sight. Give them an affectionate and confiding trust in thy covenant of grace; and build them up, by means of this ordinance, through faith, unto salvation.—God forbid that there should be any hand on the table which will betray the Son of man. Let none who thus profess thy name, be cast forth as a branch that is withered, and cast into the fire, and burned; but make them all branches, that shall

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abide in thee, bringing forth much fruit, that thy name may be glorified.

Lord, grant that the impenitent may reflect, that if they eat not the flesh of the Son of man, and drink not his blood, they shall have no part nor lot in his salvation. May thy Spirit reveal Christ to them in the breaking of bread, in all his fulness and willingness as a Saviour. O may they be persuaded to make with him a covenant of mercy and obedience, which shall never be revoked nor forsaken.

These petitions I offer thee, Gracious Father, through him whose blood speaketh better things than that of Abel; and who sitteth at thy right hand, to make intercession, and receive the service and adoration of saints and angels, forever.

LOVE OF GOD.

God is love! Lord, thou art good, and thou lovest to do good. The eyes of all are unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season: thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desires of every living thing. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works, and thy goodness is seen in all thy ways. But thou hast most commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Here it is beyond parallel; it transcends the strongest effort of thought; and it is above blessing and praise. This is the bright and glorious centre of thy good-will to man, around which every other token of thy mercy gathers.—I would praise thee, Lord, for the common and special benefits of thy providence, and for that wise arrangement of the laws of nature, which promotes the happiness and well-being of thy creatures: yet I would offer thee louder strains of praise, and stronger feelings of

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gratitude, for thy compassion to our souls, in revealing thy will, in teaching us the issues of eternity, in giving thy Son to bear our iniquities, and in bestowing thy Spirit, to convince us of sin, to enlighten our minds in the knowledge of truth, and to persuade us to accept the plan of salvation.—Forbid it, O God, that I should ever forget or undervalue thy favours which are past; or that I should doubt thy suretiship of compassion for the future. Continue to manifest thyself unto me, as thou dost not unto the world. Enrich thou my soul with the fulness of thy love, now, henceforth, and forever.

O Lord, why should there be any so carnally-minded, as to be enmity against thee, the God of love? Show them thy rich goodness, and their own dark ingratitude. Make them feel that this world has no charms, when compared with that full tide of affection, which flows from the heart of God towards them that put their trust in him. O make many such the partners of thy loving-kindness in Jesus, which is unto eternal life.

LOVE TO GOD.

Exalted Jehovah, thou art worthy, both by thy nature and dealings, of the strongest love of all thy rational creatures. Thou art perfect in all the attributes of thy character. No ignorance impairs thy wisdom; no error perverts thy justice; no falsehood clouds thy truth; no spot stains thy holiness. Thou art, moreover, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness. O that the language of my heart might always be—"Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth I desire besides thee." Be thou my Alpha and Omega;

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my morning praise; my noonday thought; my evening prayer; and my waking meditation.

Blessed Jesus, help me that I may love thee with all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind. I desire to cherish the memory of thine example and instructions, thy benevolence and promises, as the dearest objects of thought. O may my affection for thee urge me to advance thy glory, to desire to be conformed to thine image, to seek communion with thee, and to love thy house, thine ordinances, thy word, and thy people. But let me not think that any strength of attachment can merit thy love to me; for O thine acceptance of my love is one of the crowning gifts of undeserved mercy.

Glorious God, may thy saints bring thee the full tribute of their hearts. Let the constant bearing of their thoughts be unto thee, and the remembrance of thy name. Fill their hearts with gratitude to thee, and lead them to seek thee, with delight, in all the exercises of religion. May they rejoice in thy word, as the index of thy will; and take pleasure in thy people, as the excellent of the earth; and seek the glory of Christ more than the favour of man, or the love of the world.

Lord, bring those who are now at enmity with thee, to esteem and desire thee, as their chief good. Cast out their selfishness and aversion, and take the dominion of their hearts, that they may be able to say, the Lord is their portion, and his love the fulness of their joy.

LOVE TO MAN.

Lord, I pray thee, for Christ's sake, to make my heart a wellspring of affection for all mankind. Let no jealousy, nor selfishness, nor anger, nor malice,

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lead me to forget that every man is my brother. Thou makest thy sun to rise on the evil, and on the good; and sendest rain on the just, and on the unjust. Why then should I shut up my compassions from any that are my fellow-creatures? O help me to feel for every want, and to sympathize with every wo, that afflicts humanity. And, I pray thee, dispose me, in benevolence of heart, to do what I can, to dry up the fountains of human misery, and to multiply the sources of man's real happiness.

Lord, incline me to love the souls of men. May I have strong pity for those who are thoughtlessly or wilfully destroying their eternal peace; and may I seek to bring them under the influences of the blessed gospel. Grant me that spirit which seeketh not her own, and is not easily provoked, and that rejoiceth in the truth. Cause me to abound in good-will to the brotherhood of faith, and to be kindly affectioned towards them in brotherly love. May I seek their company, and be glad in their prosperity, and make common cause with them in all their interests. Lord, give me, I pray thee, the love of benevolence towards every thing that is capable of happiness or misery, and the affection of complacency towards every creature possessed of holiness.

LUKEWARMNESS.

Lord, I pray thee, through thy grace in Jesus, to preserve me from lukewarmness in my religious duties. Make me feel an interest in them proportioned to their unspeakable importance. Let no worldly influence, no allurement of Satan, no selfish desires, lower the tone of my religious feeling and activity. How long, O Lord, shall I serve thee

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with an indifferent heart—thee, who hast infinite claims on my most ardent attachment, and whose service should be my chief delight. O rebuke my apathy, and fill me with a holy zeal. Make me fervent in spirit; and whatsoever my hand finds to do, dispose me to do it with my might. Let thy Spirit that quickeneth, give me life, and cause me to mount up with wings, as eagles; to run, and not be weary; to walk, and not faint.

LUNATICS.

Lo, the inspiration of the Almighty giveth understanding to man! Lord, show me the beauty and value of the gift of reason; which thou hast made in thine own image; and by which I am fitted to learn thy character, to meditate on thy works, to understand my duties, and to enjoy happiness. Let my regard and gratitude for this blessing, and for the preservation of it, be excited by the melancholy fact, that it has been denied to many of my fellow-creatures.

Lord, behold in mercy those whose balance of intellect has been broken, and who have become the sport of their own deranged judgment. Do thou restrain them from doing injury to themselves, or to others. Let them not be made the objects of merriment and annoyance by the thoughtless; but of the pity and care of the humane. I bless thee that in the prevalence of gospel humanity, asylums for the protection and cure of the insane, have been established, from which many of these victims of derangement have gone forth, clothed, and in their right minds; while those who have remained, as incurable, possess every earthly comfort, compatible with the loss of reason. Do thou multiply the

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number of these institutions, and cause them to be sustained by liberal patronage. Increase the kindness and skill of those who manage them. And, Lord, let the rapid progress of knowledge include, in its discoveries, such remedies as shall dissolve the fetters that imprison and pervert these immortal minds, and give them the freedom and joy of intelligent and virtuous wisdom.

Gracious God, provide, in thy mercy, for those who shall go down through life, to the gates of death, without the cheering and guiding torch of reason. O let the darkness and disquietude which afflicted them here, give place to the light and blessedness of that region, where they shall know, even as they are known.

LUXURY.

Heavenly Father, guard me against indulging in luxury. Let me not seek to make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust of the eye, or the pride of life. Let not my desires go out in anxious pursuit of what I shall eat, or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; nor be unduly set on any of the pomps of sense, or vanities of life. May I use this world as not abusing it; remembering that a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses. Teach me that earthly indulgences excite pride and sensuality; and that instead of satisfying the heart, they increase, continually, its restless desires for unprofitable and corrupting enjoyments. Lord, thou wilt require it of the souls of those who lay up treasures for themselves, but are not rich towards God. O let me not desire to live in pleasure on the earth, nor nourish my heart as in a day of slaughter. Make me content with a competent

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portion of the good things of this life; and let me enjoy thy blessing with them. Show me that health of body, peace of mind, and ability and willingness to do good to others, will depend on my abstinence from fleshly lusts.—Lord, be thou to me more than all thine other gifts. Incline me to lay up treasure in heaven, that there my heart may be also.

MALICE.

Lord, keep my heart from the occasional or frequent influence of malice. Let no rivalry and no sense of injury, ever excite me to feelings or acts of malignity. O how infinitely is such a temper opposed to thy holiness; and how nearly does it approach to the hatred which fills the bosoms of the damned!—Blessed Jesus, bring me into closer likeness to thy precious example. Thou didst not render railing for railing, nor evil for evil; but contrariwise, blessing. O give me, I pray thee, that spirit of love which worketh no ill to its neighbour; and which looks on the earth, in all its length and breadth, as one neighbourhood—and on all its diversified races, as one brotherhood of man.

MARRIAGE.

Heavenly Parent, thou hast shown both thy wisdom and goodness in the institution of marriage. Thou hast sought by it to increase the happiness, and promote the virtue of mankind. The works of thy creation, though good in thy sight, were unfinished, while man dwelt alone; and thy last and best gift to earth, was she that should be a fountain of joy, a partner of pleasure, and a solace of sorrow. Lord, teach all men that this relation of

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life is still (and must be throughout the annals of time,) identified with the comfort and welfare of our race. O let none with ruthless and impious hand, undermine nor overthrow this ordinance of God; but may all regard and sustain it as the safeguard of purity, the pledge of social bliss, and the bond of public good.

Lord, reform the opinions and correct the practice of Christians in relation to unhallowed marriages. Let none such be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May they marry only in the Lord. Show them that those who ally themselves in sacred ties with the ungodly, rebel against the will of God, cast snares and unhappiness in their way through life, and fearfully hinder the grace of God in their own hearts.

Lord, govern by the dictates of affection, prudence, and piety, those who would enter on the duties and pleasures of matrimony.—Bless all who have embarked on them. May their relations be characterized by mutual love, esteem, forbearance, assistance, and sympathy. May the same sincere, ardent, unchangeable, protecting, and providing love, which the Saviour manifests to his spouse, the church, be shown by the husband to his wife. And do thou direct her conduct to him in subjection, reverence, prudence, and love. Lord, make their union conducive to every rational good of human life. Let it be an emblem of the union between Christ and his church; that they may walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless, and be made mutual helpers in the fellowship of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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MASTERS.

O thou, who art King of Kings and Lord of Lords, bless those who occupy places of authority over their inferiors. Teach them the duties of their stations. Induce masters to give that which is just and equal to their servants, in every thing that relates to courtesy, recompense, and good-will. May they forbear threatening, knowing that their Master is in heaven, and that with him there is no respect of persons. May they reflect that though their servants are inferior in rank, they are their equals by nature, equals in the grave, and equals at the throne of judgment.—Show them that the labourer is worthy of his hire: and let no honest wages be kept back by meanness or fraud; lest the cry of the hireling enter into the ears of the Lord God of Sabaoth, and thou render vengeance for unrequited toil.—Lord, incline the hearts of masters to kindness. Make them careful to avoid unjust exactions of labour, and every display of the pride of rank and authority. Give them patience under provocation; and lead them to seek every reasonable comfort for their domestics. And above all, may they strive to promote their spiritual welfare, by setting them a godly example, by giving them full access to the means of grace, and by personal exertions, that they may become the servants of God, and heirs of that recompense of reward, which liveth and abideth forever.

MEANS OF GRACE.

Lord, I thank thee for those means of grace which thou hast appointed for the instruction and conviction, conversion and sanctification of mankind. O bless me, I pray thee, in the enjoyment

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of them. Make the Holy Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Let thy preached gospel bring me glad tidings of good things. May I hallow thy Sabbaths, and make them my delight. Make thy sacraments times of refreshing from thy presence. O cause the exercises of public, social, and private prayer to make me feel my wants, and thine infinite fulness and willingness to supply them. May I sing thy praises with melody of heart. Give me grace to keep the season of fasting or of thanksgiving, so that it may be a time of refreshing from thy presence. Grant me the sanctified use of meditation and self-examination; and lead me to such fellowship with thy saints, as will strengthen my heart and encourage my zeal in the Christian race.

Blessed God, I humbly pray thee, that I may use these privileges only as the means, and not as the end, of religion. Make me regard them as the channels through which thou dost vouchsafe to pour the refreshing streams of thy grace. It is the Spirit which gives efficacy to all the appointments of thy mercy. O Lord, make me understand that while I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, it is thou who workest in me, both to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure.

MEDIATOR.

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name, that thou hast laid help upon One, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee, and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst, in infinite mercy, appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated

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and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire, and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman, has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me, for my transgressions—procure for me, by thine intercession, the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace, by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant, which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy, and the work of thy power and grace, unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee, through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

MEDITATION.

Blessed Jehovah, enable me to withdraw my thoughts and desires, at frequent seasons, from the

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things that are seen and temporal, and to fix them on those that are unseen and eternal. O may thy character, in all its variety and fulness, be a rich topic of my meditation. Grant me holy and exalted converse with thine attributes, as they are revealed in thy word, and in thy works of creation, providence, and redemption.—May Jesus be to my soul, the chief among ten thousand, and one altogether lovely.—Draw out my thoughts, sweetly and confidingly, to that Holy Spirit, whose work is quietness and assurance forever.—May I love to dwell upon the law of thy mouth; and do thou make it better to me than thousands of gold and silver.—Teach me in these hours of reflection, my weakness and sinfulness, and the means by which I may grow in grace, and advance the various interests of thy kingdom.—Help me, O Lord, to fix my thoughts on the shortness of time, the certainty of death, and the undying worth of the soul.

Lord, grant me the presence and blessing of thy Spirit, in these solemn meditations. May the peace of God, which passeth understanding, fill my heart and make it a fountain of love to God, and of goodwill to man. May my knowledge be refreshed and enlarged. While I muse on holy things, cause the fire to burn within me, until the dross of sin be consumed, and my soul be as gold that has been tried in the furnace. O vouchsafe unto me, rich foretastes of those heavenly contemplations, where no cloud of sense, nor of sin, shall shut out the light of thy presence, and where there are pleasures for evermore.

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MEEKNESS.

Merciful God, impart to me the grace of meekness. Preserve me from the exercise of a violent and overbearing temper. Break down the native stubbornness and resentment of my heart; and give me that childlike spirit, which knows no will but that of its heavenly Father. Bestow on me that temper of soul, which seeketh not its own selfish good; that is not easily provoked by injury; and that hopeth all things, before it thinketh evil of any one. May this state of mind be the working of thy Spirit, teaching me that I am, in myself, weak and sinful, and that thou requirest meekness of spirit in all that would be followers of Christ: for if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Show me that this grace is an ornament of great price in thy sight; and that he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city; and that he findeth rest for his soul, in learning of him who was meek and lowly in heart. Lord, excite me to seek this heavenly mind, by considering the examples of the patriarchs and prophets, of the apostles, and Jesus Christ, who manifested it. O grant me the blessings of the meek; whom thou guidest in judgment, and beautifiest with salvation, and makest the dwelling-place of thy power and mercy.

MEMORY.

Lord, invigorate and sanctify, for Jesus' sake, all the exercises of my memory. O how has this noble faculty been weakened and corrupted by the fall! But thou canst restore it; and instead of suffering it to run after forbidden and unholy things, thou canst give it employment in those things which

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belong to wisdom and salvation. Lead me, I pray thee, to remember thee, my Creator, and all thine excellent mercies. May my memory be precious of him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Impress indelibly on my thoughts, the doctrines, precepts, warnings, and promises of thy word. Make me mindful of my transgressions, and let my sin be ever before me. Enable me to bring up in review, the covenants and promises I have made to thee; and lead me to pay unto thee my vows.

O Lord, preserve me from every thing, moral or physical, that will weaken or deprave my memory. Lead me to the use of such means as will promote its strength and purity. May I regard and value it as the storehouse of knowledge and comfort; the spring of repentance and hope; and the monitor of thankfulness and faith. May it retain that which is good, and banish that which is evil. Dispose me to practice every holy thing it remembers; and grant that I may so use this noble power, that I may glorify thee in my body and spirit, which are thine.

MERCY.

Great Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant me a sanctifying and saving knowledge of thy mercy. O thou art good and gracious; slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Yet thou hast a perfect right to withhold it from us—yea, to visit us with unmixed and irretrievable evil, for we are not only unworthy of the least expression of thy goodness, but we have deserved the severe retributions of thy wrath. Nevertheless, thy goodness has pursued us in all the walks of life. It has stayed, or soothed, or healed the inflictions of merited evil; and it has

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bestowed on us uncounted tokens of unmerited good. When we have been thoughtless of thee, thou hast been mindful of us: when we hated thee, thou hast loved us. Verily, thou art long-suffering, and abundant in compassion. Thou dost not mete unto man evil for evil; but dost crown him with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

O that my memory could retain, and that my heart could properly value, the long catalogue of thine affectionate dealings with me. Thou hast watched over me by night, and guarded me by day; thou hast preserved me in health, and healed me in sickness; thou hast chosen for me the changes of life, and hast suited me to them: and more than all things else, thou hast given our race that mercy of Christ, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, with healing in its beams. Lord, enable me to cherish a suitable estimate of thy goodness. May it lead me to love thee, and to do thy will—may it succour me when I am tempted, and comfort me when I am grieved.—May it strengthen me in the hour of death, and be the song of my rejoicing throughout the ages of eternity.

Compassionate Father, deal not in strict justice with those who are now rejecting thy mercy. Say not in thy wrath, that they shall not enter thy rest. Make them hear thy tender and oft-repeated entreaties to turn from their wickedness, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious. Display to them the riches and fulness of that compassion, which brings the Sovereign of heaven to plead with them, and to pursue them, in their obstinacy, with so many expressions of love. Extend to them thy golden sceptre of grace, that they may touch it, and live. O, forsake them not; but multiply thy mercies upon

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them, until their hardness of heart shall be melted down, in humble sorrow and love—until their rebellious wills shall be brought to serve the living and true God.

MILLENNIUM.

Great God, rejoice my heart with frequent and thankful contemplations of that millennial glory, when thy name shall be great among the heathen, and when thou wilt give them to thy Son, for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth, for his possession. Then thou wilt pour out thy Holy Spirit without measure, and darkness and transgression will be supplanted by light and obedience. Love to God and love to man, will fill the hearts of all the dwellers on earth: they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Then there will be no clashing of sects; for there will be one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The heavens shall give their dew; the earth shall give her increase; the parched ground shall become a pool; and the desert shall blossom as the rose. They shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord;" for they shall know thee, from the least of them unto the greatest of them. The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills. O then there will be great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

Lord, teach all thy people the duties that belong

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to them, in reference to the coming of that glorious season. May they trim their lamps, and keep their lights burning, and be ready at the advent of their Master. But do thou show them that his glorious appearing will be by the instrumentality of the sanctified and intelligent efforts of his church. O induce them to desire it ardently, to pray for it fervently, to hope for it believingly, and to labour for it diligently, in all those measures which thou hast been pleased to institute, as the means of accomplishing it. Bless all their works of faith, and labours of love. O hasten thy glorious dominion. Spread it from pole to pole, from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth; and fill the wide world with thy knowledge, even as the waters cover the sea.

MINISTRY.

Great Author and Dispenser of Truth, bless those whom thou hast set to preach the everlasting gospel, and to bring glad tidings of good things. Thou hast not sent us the ministry of angels, but of men; and hast given us this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power might be of God. It has pleased thee, by that which the world calls the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.

Lord of the Vineyard, let none take upon them this holy office, who are unfit for its sacred duties, in body, mind, or spirit. Yet do thou call out and prepare many, very many, who thou knowest are meet for the divine work of saving souls. Qualify those who are now ambassadors for Christ, and enable them to persuade sinners to be reconciled to God. Make them men of strong and cultivated

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judgment; of diligent and persevering study; of zealous and faithful labour; and of prayerful, fervent, and consistent piety. Make them as the voice of him that cried in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." May they be themselves instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, and bring forth out of their treasure, things new and old. Cause them to exemplify their doctrine by a holy walk. Preserve them from the desire of applause, and the love of lucre. Let them not confer with flesh and blood. Bestow on them a mouth and wisdom which their enemies shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. Give them grace to speak thy word with all boldness; keeping back nothing that is profitable; shunning not to declare all the counsel of God; and having this record, that they are pure from the blood of all men.

O Lord, bring them before their flocks in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Dispose them to give themselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word. Lead them to proclaim the gospel, not only in the sanctuary, but from house to house. May their preaching be in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power. Let thy pleasure prosper in their hands, and thy word have free course, and be glorified. May they seek diligently to bring the religion of their people up to the standard of the Bible—to the measure of the faith once delivered to the saints. Give them power to alarm the guilty consciences, and to persuade the stubborn wills, of the impenitent. Constrain them to watch, as those who must give an account of their stewardship. Let them not be compelled to say, "All day long, we have stretched forth our hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people:".

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nor to ask in despair, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" O make them guides of the blind, and lights of them which are in darkness. Grant that by their efforts, revivals of pure and undefiled religion shall prevail, to cleanse thy church, and to save perishing sinners.

Shepherd of Israel, incline thy people to discharge the duties they owe to the messengers of thy word. May they remember that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. May they properly appreciate the office of those that are over them in the Lord, and esteem such very highly, in love, for their works' sake. Make them careful to maintain all the institutions of thy word. May they listen to the preached message with the preparation of heart, the culture of prayer, the hearing of faith, and the purpose of obedience: receiving with meekness the engrafted word, as that which ministers grace to the hearers. Blessed Lord, excite them to sustain thy ministering servants by their intercessory prayers, that thou wouldst make them wise as serpents, and harmless as doves—that thou wouldst enable them to turn many to righteousness, who shall be as stars in the crowns of their rejoicing, at the last day.

Lord, give to every destitute flock, a pastor after thine own heart, who shall go in and out before his people in righteousness and zeal. Send thy messengers of mercy to those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. O raise up, and qualify, and send forth those who shall teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: and be thou with them always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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MISSIONS.—*See Heathen, Idolatry, Home Missions.*

MOHAMMEDANS.

Lord, look in mercy on the followers of the False Prophet, whose system of blood and sensuality has dragged into the net of delusion and death, so many millions of the human family. Thou seest how they have usurped the seats of the early triumphs of the gospel; and how they are trampling under-foot conscience and liberty, in the scenes where Jesus and his apostles taught, and toiled, and died for the blessed truth of God. O Lord, open a great and effectual door of access to this people, through which the chariot of thy gospel may go forth, conquering and to conquer. Subdue their prejudice and bigotry; destroy their licentiousness and love of carnage; supplant their pride and superstition; and on the ruins of this dominion of sin, build that kingdom of righteousness, which is peace on earth and good-will to men.

MORNING.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee. I thank thee for peaceful and refreshing sleep, and for the returning light of the morning. Lift thou on my soul, the light of thy reconciled and lifegiving countenance. May my heart rejoice in the daily renewals of thy love, even as the springing grass rejoices in the reviving visits of the morning sun. O cause my first awakings of thought—my earliest desires, to fix on thee, and the remembrance of thy name.—Whilst I have slept in quiet comfort, many have been racked by pain or disease; or disturbed by fear or calamity; or suddenly called to the retri-

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butions of eternity.—Grant me grace, for Christ's sake, to meet and discharge the duties of this day. Be thou my guide and protector, in the midst of them. Let me not undertake any thing which is not agreeable to thee. Dispose me to follow all my occupations in the world with a heavenly mind. May I use this world, as not abusing it; and pass through things temporal, so as not to forget nor forfeit the things eternal. Enable me to make this life my journey to my everlasting home.

O Lord, let a conviction of thy presence and of my accountability, pursue me in my worldly business, and render me subservient to thy will. Protect me from folly, error, and sin. Make me kind, forbearing, and just in all my intercourse with mankind. Preserve me from exercising selfishness, deceit, or ill-will, towards any one. Be pleased, Gracious God, to make the allotments of thy providence towards me this day, such as may not tempt me to evil; but such as will work together for my good. Guard my thoughts, that they may not tamper with sin; and my lips, that I offend not with my tongue; and my feet, that they wander not in forbidden paths. Grant me disposition and leisure to retire from the world, to hold sweet and profitable communion with thee, at thy throne of grace. And, O may I find at the close of this day, that while I have been drawn so much nearer eternity, I have been suitably advanced in meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light.

MOTHERS.

Heavenly Parent, bless, for the glory of Christ, the maternal relation. Thou hast been pleased to assign to mothers, more than to any other class, the

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moulding influences, which determine the character and destinies of children, for time and eternity. Lord, do thou teach every mother her various duties, and give her wisdom and grace to fulfil them. May she realize that it is in the days of infancy and of early life, that those principles and habits are formed, which decide the future history of the child; and that on her thou hast laid the chief responsibility of forming them. Give her a heart of piety, that shall impart a savour of life unto life to all her efforts. May she seal all her anxieties and efforts by fervent prayer, with and for her offspring, that thou wouldst help her to train them up in the way they should go, and preserve them in it, unto eternal life. Make her example such as shall be right in thy sight, and adapted to win their confidence, love, and obedience. May she constantly seek instruction in the various details of her duty. Induce her to acquire such mental culture as will secure the respect of her offspring, and enable her to instruct their forming minds. May she remember that undue indulgence is the besetting sin of mothers, and that it is the sunken rock on which countless numbers have made shipwreck of all their hopes. Let the decisions of her authority be wisely made, and rigidly enforced. Teach her that the rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Let not revengeful anger, but reclaiming love, prescribe the kind and measure of punishment. May her incentives and rewards for obedience be such as shall establish abiding principles of virtue. Let a scrupulous regard for truth manifest itself in all her dealings with her children. Guard her against partial treatment among them. Give her wisdom to know

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and skill to consult their different characters. May she strive to cultivate in them habits of prudence and frugality, industry and generosity. Make her careful to preserve them from vain pleasures, from evil company, and from selfish pursuits. Establish a perfect harmony between fathers and mothers, in their separate and mutual plans of family training. Bestow thy rich favour on maternal associations. Establish them in every community, and cause sound knowledge and saving wisdom to dictate and govern all their measures. O, Gracious God, let the salvation of her children be the object of every mother's strongest solicitude and most diligent efforts. May she feel that while this end is not secured, every other success is but as water that is spilled on the ground, and cannot be gathered.

Lord, let a full sense of their responsibilities and duties rest on the hearts of all mothers. Yet suffer them not to be cast down by the weight of them. Assure them that thy grace is sufficient for them, and that thy strength shall be made perfect in their weakness!

MOTIVES.

Lord, I pray thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ, that thou wouldst sanctify my motives. Let my outward conduct be according to righteousness and mercy; but O, do thou make my heart pure in all its promptings towards duty. Dispose me to watch narrowly, lest I make a merit of good works; or perform them to be seen of men, or to advance my selfish interests. Raise me above the love of self, and the desire of applause. Let not my motives, when they are right, be unsteady; but do thou give them such stability as shall cause me to

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be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Teach me that if my purposes are right in thy sight, O Lord, thou wilt bless me, though thou mayst see fit to deny their accomplishment. Show me that where there is a will to serve thee, it is accepted according to what a man hath, and not according to what a man hath not; for even the widow's mite secured a richer meed of favour, than the expensive gifts of the wealthy; and a cup of cold water given to a disciple, out of love to Jesus, shall in nowise lose its reward. Blessed Lord, make mine eye single, and my heart sincere. May I do good, not to be seen of men, but in the spirit of not letting my left hand know what my right hand doth; for my Father which seeth in secret, will reward me openly. Lord, I would not seek to do thy will merely that I may derive comfort from so doing; but chiefly because it is thy pleasure that I should obey thee, and because it should be my own desire that good may be done, for thy glory and human welfare.

NATURE.

Great God, the invisible things of thee, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; even thine eternal power and Godhead. Help me, I pray thee, to make Nature the handmaid of devotion. Give me knowledge to discern thy character in her various scenes. May I see thy power in the extent and diversity of creation; and discern thy wisdom in the arrangement and government of thy works; and acknowledge thy goodness in the harmony and excellence of thy products. Behold, all that I see is eloquent of God! The day, with its flood of

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light; the night, with its pall of darkness; the seasons, with their circle of changes; life, with its mysteries of being, thought, and feeling; and death, with its pains, and silence, and corruption—all, all are full of the messages of divinity! There is no language where their voice is not heard; their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Yet, O Lord, Nature is, in all these, but the echo of thy word. Although thou hast given thyself such witness in her, that men are left without excuse in rejecting thee; yet without thy revealed will, they become vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart is darkened: they change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man; and to birds, and to four-footed beasts, and to creeping things! Alas, the world by wisdom knew not God. Lord, give me grace ever to study thy works in the light of thy word; and dispose me to worship and serve the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

NEW YEAR.

O thou God of the rolling seasons, I thank thee for thy mercies to me during the last year. There has not been an hour nor a moment of it, which has not brought me tokens of thy care and kindness. Assist me now to bring its transactions, in which I have been engaged, in solemn review before my conscience. Though the record of them is fast wasting away from the treacherous tablet of my memory, yet they are written, as with a pen of iron, on the books of thy remembrance; where they will remain until that fearful hour of trial, when the books shall be opened, and all men shall be judged

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out of the things that are written therein, whether they be good or evil.

Lord, I desire to acknowledge before thee, with godly sorrow, that I have neglected many duties, and abused many privileges, during the past year. My heart, and my lips, and my hands, have often been the agents of transgression. Many of thy mercies have been ungratefully perverted or forgotten; and thy chastenings have often been despised or unheeded. O, my tongue would grow weary, and my heart would sicken, if I should undertake to recite all my iniquities before thee. Help me, I pray thee, for the sake of our Great Advocate, to repent over them, to loathe and forsake them, and to look to thee for strength, that the time past of my life may suffice to have wrought the deeds of the flesh, and that henceforth I may live to the will of God.

O Lord, I desire to enter the coming year, feeling the solemn responsibilities of human life. I know not what a day may bring forth, nor what the approaching months may reveal respecting me: except that they will bring me so much nearer eternity, and be full of records of my growth in grace, or of my backslidings from thy holy law. Yet I thank thee that my span of life is still lengthened out, and that I am still permitted to enjoy the precious opportunities that have been vouchsafed to me in days past. O God, assist me, I beseech thee, to discharge aright all the duties that lie before me. Make me understand the uncertainty of time, the worth of my soul, the multiplied interests of my fellow-travellers to eternity, and the righteous claims of thy service. Make me watchful against the many dangers to which I am exposed. Strengthen my

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love to thee; deepen my convictions of sin; animate my desires after holiness; increase my spirit of prayer; enlarge my benevolence; and lead me in thine own way, for thy name's sake. Protect me by thy care; supply me by thy bounty; and grant me an increasing meetness for that state, where these changing seasons will give place to an endless life.

Lord, make this opening year, a year of the right hand of the Most High. Pour the healing balm of peace on all the bleeding wounds of thy church. Spread over her the spotless mantle of purity. Invigorate her by the reviving power of truth. Awaken her to renewed efforts in doing good. O may these months stand forth in the history of redemption, as precious seasons of refreshing from thy holy and life-giving presence.

NIGHT.

Great God, I thank thee for the light, the comforts, and the duties of this day. Assist my thoughts now in meditating on its transactions. Bless whatever thou hast seen in me, which has been agreeable to thy will. Grant me repentance and forgiveness for whatever has been sinful in thy sight; and prepare me by godly sorrow, and renewing grace, for better conformity in time to come. As my allotted span of life grows shorter every day, may I make daily some progress in the way to heaven.

O Lord, take me into thy keeping during the watches of the night. The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. May thine eye that never slumbers, keep guard over me; and thine arm that is never weary, protect me. May I lie down, having my thoughts directed to thee, and the things that

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belong to my peace. Teach me to look on sleep as the emblem of death; and to seek that preparation of heart with which I should desire to meet the king of terrors. May the close of each day remind me of that night of death in which no man can work, and urge me to finish every work thou hast given me to do. Preserve me, I pray thee, from fear, from accident, from sickness, and from death. Make my sleep quiet and refreshing. And grant that when I awake in the morning, my thoughts may be full of thankfulness to thee for thy protecting and satisfying goodness.

OBEDIENCE.

Adorable Jehovah, bestow on me, for the merits of thy Son, the spirit of unreserved and fullhearted obedience to thy law. Thou art entitled to the service of all thy creatures. Thou didst form man out of the dust of the ground, and didst give him the breath of life, that he should honour and obey thee. Thou hast preserved his being, and gathered around him the comforts of life, that he should show forth thy praise. And he owes thee allegiance, because thou art the Governor of the universe, having a right to do thy pleasure among the army of heaven and the inhabitants of earth; none of whom can resist thy will, but at the risk of thy sore displeasure. But thou hast strengthened, infinitely, all these claims on his service, by the offer of salvation to a perishing world. Without this there had been no hope of escape from the fruits of disobedience, which had treasured up wrath against the day of wrath. Blessed be thy mercy, that with this precious gift, thou hast not only infinitely increased our obligations, but thou hast actually redeemed unto

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thyself, a peculiar people, who are zealous of good works. Though thy righteous claims of creation, preservation, and benefaction, have been disregarded, thou hast overcome the rebellion of many of thy creatures, by the controlling influence of a Saviour's love; so that they no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them.

Lord, enable me to present myself to thee, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my most reasonable service. Aid me to do thy will in the things which thou hast commanded, and in those which thou hast forbidden. May I fulfil thy commandment out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Teach me that whoso keepeth thy word, in him verily is the love of God perfected. O let me not confer with flesh and blood, in reference to the claims of duty. Give me courage to hold forth the word of life in evil report, and in good report. O let my obedience have that symmetry and that fulness, which are found in adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness and charity. Give me patient continuance in well-doing; and cheer me by the hope, that in due season, if I faint not, I shall reap eternal blessedness.

Blessed Sovereign, may thy chosen generation adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Enable them, by a holy walk, to be the light of the world, and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make their consciences void of offence toward God and man. May they find that thy yoke is easy and thy burden light. Make them fruitful of every good work; for thou hast ordained them, that they should go and bring forth fruit; and herein is our Father glorified, that they should bear

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much fruit. Grant that they may walk worthy of thee, in holiness and righteousness before thee, all the days of their lives. Make them willing, if needs be, to lose life for thy sake and the gospel's; for then they shall find it in life everlasting. And the praise of their service, sanctified by Christ's merits, and accepted through his pleadings, shall be thine forever.

OLD AGE.

Eternal Jehovah, the days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength, they be fourscore, yet is their strength labour and sorrow! Lord, regard, in great mercy, those whose age warns them that thou wilt come quickly, and bring thy reward with thee. Especially let thy compassions be kindled towards those who are bowed down under the weight of years and guilt—to whom gray hairs have brought no true wisdom, and to whom length of days has given no experience of eternal life. Do thou show them the accumulated wrath which they have treasured up by their long delay. Teach them that there is but a step between them and death. Arouse them to a knowledge of the fearful crisis in which they stand. Let them know that the destinies of heaven and hell hang on every fleeting breath, and every moving muscle. And if consistent with thy will, give them repentance unto life.—But O how little ground of hope is there, indeed, when we reflect on their enfeebled judgment, and decreasing affections, their rigid habits, and aggravated sins! In the multitude of thy promises, there is none to the aged sinner. Alas, how few are brought into thy vineyard at the eleventh hour! But because there are some, we would not despair

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of thy mercy. Lord, glorify thyself in plucking many as brands from the burning.

Gracious God, let thy precious favour rest on those whose hoary head is a crown of glory, because it is found in the ways of righteousness. Make them the objects of the respect, affection, and care, of all around them. Let their example be a blessing on all that witness it. Temper thy providence to their declining strength, and suit thy grace to their approaching death. And when thou bringest them to the grave, as a shock of corn cometh in his season, fully ripe, soothe their pains, allay their fears, strengthen their hopes, and bid them welcome to thy courts of glory.

Lord, let me not be anxious for long life. May I learn that honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that which is measured by number of years: for wisdom is the gray hair unto men; and unspotted life is old age.

OMNIPOTENCE.

Lord, thou art God Almighty. The thunder of thy power, who can understand? Thou hast made, and controlled, and sustained the mighty fabric of nature, by the strength of thy word. The firmament, with all its shining garniture of countless worlds, showeth thy handiwork; the earth, with all its furniture of hills and valleys, rivers and seas proclaims thy greatness: and in thee all creatures live, and move, and have their being.

O Lord, give me a realizing sense of the greatness of thy power. Show it to me in the rich and varied works of nature; and unfold it to me in that creation in the soul of man, in which old things are passed away, and all things are become new. I

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would adore thee for the strength of thy grace, which breaks the stony heart, and bends the stubborn will, and quickens those that were dead in trespasses and sins, into newness of life. Thy gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.—O God, I would bless thee that thou hast pledged thy might for the increase of thy kingdom in the world, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. O help me to cry, "Alleluia; for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth?"

Most High and Mighty, incline me to fear thee, who art able to destroy both body and soul in hell forever. Induce me to put my trust in thee; for if thou art with me, who can be against me? May I experience in my heart that working whereby thou art able to subdue all things unto thyself. Grant me the succour of him, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, those who come unto thee by him. Keep me by thy power, through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.

OMNIPRESENCE.

O God, whither shall I go from thy Spirit; or where shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, thou art there: if I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me! Thou fillest and exceedest the vast amplitude of the universe.

Lord, help me to understand the purposes of thy universal presence. Thou art bestowing the blessings of thy providence, and exerting the righteousness of thy government, over all thy creatures.

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Thou art comforting, protecting, and sanctifying the hearts of thy saints, and bestowing mingled mercy and justice on the earthly probation of the wicked. Thou art pervading heaven with the bliss of eternal life, and filling hell with the anguish of everlasting death.

O Lord, assist me to profit by the truth, that thou art everywhere present, at all times. Teach me by it, that in the infinite contrast with thee, I am but a grain of dust, a point, an atom, or as nothing! O that it might lead me to be vigilant in doing thy will, and in trusting to thy protecting providence, and redeeming goodness. Lord, grant me here, I beseech thee, a foretaste of that fulness of joy, which is in thy heavenly presence for evermore.

OMNISCIENCE.

Great Fountain of Knowledge, thine understanding is infinite. Thou knowest all things; even the end from the beginning. There is no creature that is not manifest in thy sight. Thou rememberest every thing that has occurred in the history of the wide universe: thou knowest all the open and secret workings of matter and mind, throughout thine unmeasured dominion: even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without thy notice, and the very hairs of our heads are all numbered: and there is nothing in the countless revolutions of eternity, that is not as visible to thine eye as the light of day!

Lord, thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou art acquainted with all my ways; and thou understandest even my thoughts afar off. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me"—even the night shall be light about me. O grant me the solemn influence of the truth, that thou knowest

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the hearts of all men: thou hast indeed searched and known me. May it lead me to worship thee in spirit and in truth; for thou art not deceived, and canst not be mocked. May it restrain me from sin; because there is no darkness nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. And, O, may it be a source of comfort and blessing to me; for thou knowest all my wants, and canst supply them out of thine abundant fulness.

ORPHANAGE.

Lord, thou art the Helper of the fatherless. Look, I pray thee, in thy tenderest compassion, on those from whom thou hast taken away the natural guides and comforters of their life. Heal the wounded hearts of those who are bleeding under these keen bereavements. Assure them that when their father and mother forsake them, then, if they put their trust in thee, the Lord will take them up.

O God, open fountains of compassion in the hearts of mankind, towards orphans. Raise up for them friends, who shall take the places, and discharge the offices, of those whom thou hast, in thy wise purposes, taken away from them. Make it the business of christian love, to soothe their sorrows, to minister to their wants, and to guide their steps amid the wanderings of earth. Protect them from the dangers which accompany their exposed condition. Screen them from the oppressions with which the selfish so often scourge the destitute. Guard them from the temptations which gather in fearful number and strength around the defenceless. Save them from those indulgences in sin, into which the unrestrained are so prone to fall. Gracious Lord, smooth for them the pathways of life. Even

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as a tender shepherd carries the lambs of his flock in his bosom, so do thou shelter them in the covert of thy wings.—Above every other blessing, grant them that of regarding thee as their reconciled God and Father, in the Lord Jesus Christ. Though thou hast hid the desire of their eyes, and the hope of their hearts, in the silence of the grave, yet thou wilt be unto them, if they confide in thee, a present help and an eternal portion. Lead them to look up unto thee, in their destitution, as their Heavenly Father; and to feel that the most cherished pleasures of earthly parentage, fall infinitely below the privileges of being in the adoption of the sons of God.

OSTENTATION.

O thou that dwellest in the contrite heart, preserve me, for the Redeemer's sake, from the folly and sin of ostentation, both in the common duties of life, and in my religious actions. Teach me that I have nothing that I have not received; and that thou hast commanded that nothing be done through vainglory. Lord, let me not do my works before men, to be seen of them. Make my path of life like the course of the humble rivulet, which is not denoted by noise and glare, but by the verdure and plenty that attend its borders. Grant that whenever I desire to catch the applause of man, or seek to be thought of others what I am not, I may reflect that all I am and all I do, are naked and open to thine eyes. Let it be a very small thing with me that I should be judged of man's judgment; for though I may lawfully desire the good opinion of my fellow-creatures, I must hold it subordinate to the esteem of God: thou art the only true and final umpire of conduct and character. Heavenly Father, do thou

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so raise me above the fear and love of man, that I may be in all things, and at all times, a servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, as unto the Lord, and not unto men.

PARDON.

Great God, I have sinned against thee, times and ways beyond number. If thou shouldst lay righteousness to the line, and judgment to the plummet, I should be driven from thy presence. Yea, if thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I could not appear before thee. Yet I praise thee that there is forgiveness with thee, and that thou blottest out the transgressions of thy people. O give me the blessedness of him to whom thou imputest no iniquity; whose sins, though they be as scarlet, shall be as white as snow; and though they be red like crimson, shall be as wool.

Lord, teach me the nature and condition of that pardon which thou art willing and ready to bestow on thy sinful creatures. O, it is sufficient to stay the wrath of thy condemnation, and to take away forever, the sentence which was written against us. Yet it is not procured by our own works of righteousness; but we have this redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Grant me, I beseech thee, such a conviction of sin, and such a reliance on the atonement of Jesus, as will make it consistent with thy love of justice, and with the security of thy moral government, to remember my transgressions no more against me. Keep me from every effort to bring thee a price in my hand, for this precious boon. O may I seek it as the gift of thy

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mercy, purchased by the death of thy Son, and made effectual by the application of the Holy Ghost.

Merciful God, grant me the fruits of thy forgiving love, in peace of conscience, a sense of thy favour, a tender penitence for sin, a feeling of deep and lasting gratitude, and a holy, humble, and confiding access to thy throne of grace.

Lord, lead multitudes of the impenitent to seek thy forgiving mercy. May they learn the infinite value of that sacrifice by which it was procured, and the tender solicitude and strivings of thy Spirit, that they should embrace it. Show them from what guilt and punishment it redeems, and to what purity and happiness it leads. Enter not now into judgment with them, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. O do thou excite many to call on thee whilst thou art waiting to be gracious; and do thou make peace with them through the blood of the cross, and present them holy and unblameable in thy sight. Blot out their iniquities from the book of thy remembrance, and write their names in the Lamb's book of life.

PARENTS.—*See Fathers, Mothers.*

PASSIONS.

Lord, preserve me from the dominion of my passions. Thou hast given me, in thy wisdom and goodness, the affections of human nature; but thou hast put them under laws of usefulness and of subjection to thy will. Lead me, I pray thee, to consult diligently those laws; and help me to bring my feelings into submission to them. O let not the things that are sensual and carnal, attract and absorb my desires. Teach me to abstain from fleshly lusts

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that destroy the body, that war against the soul, and which bring down the displeasure of God. Lord, keep me from the undue and unholy exercise of my mental passions. Enable me to control and direct them, that they may be the servants of grace, and not the instruments of unrighteousness.

PATIENCE.

Lord, I would draw nigh, in the prevailing name of Jesus, to ask thee to cause patience to have its perfect work in my heart, in all the various trials of life. May it possess my soul, and suffer no intrusion there of fretful complaint, nor anxious fear. In sickness, in bereavement, in crosses, in provocations, in persecutions, in every thing that clashes with my desires, grant, I beseech thee, that I may secure and preserve serenity of mind. Instruct me that every discontented and peevish feeling is rebellion against thee; and that I may glorify thy name by the meek endurance of trial, as well as by the active performance of duty.—What is man, that he should complain? Lo! thou Jehovah art long-suffering, even towards the contradiction of sinners. May I remember that there is One who was tempted in all points as I am; and yet never incurred the sin of an impatient spirit—who when he was reviled, reviled not again; who when he suffered, threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously. Teach me that this grace will protect me from much that is evil, and strengthen me in all that is good; and that it will secure thy favour—for thou hast said that when we do well, and suffer for it, yet take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. Enable me to run with patience, the race that is set before me. Put my heart at rest

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in thee; for he who hath delivered, will yet deliver. May the thought that the Lord will provide, quell every restless and fearful emotion. O God, make me a steadfast follower of them that through faith and patience, inherit the promises.

PEACE.

Heavenly Father, grant me peace of conscience towards thee, through the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give me, I pray thee, that holy serenity of mind, which the world can neither give nor take away, and which results from receiving thy love, and from knowing and doing thy will continually.—Enable me to live peaceably with all men—respecting with justice their rights, and not seeking with pertinacity my own—giving place to wrath, and refraining from an evil tongue, and every thing that stirs up strife.—Lord, give thy churches rest from unholy divisions within, and from wicked assaults without. May the household of faith dwell together in unity; and then the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. O God, promote and establish peace between man and man, and between nation and nation, throughout the world. Supplant, by the influence of the gospel, that selfishness which is the fruitful source of every form of contention: and in its place implant that holy love which worketh no ill to its neighbour, and which leadeth man to regard every human being as a neighbour and a brother. Then shall individuals cease from strife—nations shall learn war no more—and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shall reign over a dominion where there shall be none to hurt nor destroy—where heart shall beat in harmony with heart—where eye shall

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speak peace to eye—and where hand shall be to hand the exchange of good-will to man.

PERSECUTION.

Shepherd of Israel, I would praise thy name for that comparative exemption from persecution, which we enjoy in this highly favoured land. Yet perhaps we owe our peaceful security to our conformity with the world. It becomes us to inquire, whether the world arrays itself not against us, because we have not fearlessly borne our testimony against it, that its deeds are evil; or because we have not rebuked its practices by a high standard of holy living.—Lord, let me not desire exemption from the enmity of the wicked, at the expense of duty. Make me willing to suffer persecution for righteousness' sake: yea, thou hast said that they shall suffer it, who live godly, in Christ Jesus. If our Blessed Lord was reviled, scourged, and persecuted, and his noble cloud of witnesses, of whom the world was not worthy, had trial of cruel mockings, and bonds, and death, why should I hope to escape? Lord, enable me so to act, that whether men may devise evil or good concerning me, my conscience shall be free from guilt towards thee and all mankind.

O thou who art a very present help in trouble, remember those who fall into persecution. Overrule the trial of their faith and patience, for their good and thy glory. Abate its severity, or open a door of deliverance from it, or enable them to bear it as good soldiers of Christ. While they suffer according to thy will, may they commit the keeping of their souls to thee, in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator. Let them not wonder nor complain, as though some strange thing had happene

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unto them; but rejoice inasmuch as they are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, they may be glad also, with exceeding joy.

PERSEVERANCE.

God of Salvation, let me not be of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe unto the saving of the soul. Make me steadfast in the pursuit of knowledge, and performance of duty. Teach me that the race is not to the swift, but to them who cast aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset them; and who look to Jesus, as the Author and Finisher of faith. Blessed be God, the way I am called to run in, is not an unbeaten path; for thy people on earth are now walking in it as the highway to heaven; the saints in glory have followed it unto life eternal; yea, even the High Priest of our profession, Christ the Righteous, hath made it smooth by his glorious footsteps. Lord, give me a warmer zeal, and a holier strength, to run that heavenly road.

O God, set clearly and strongly before my mind, that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, which is laid up for those that endure unto the end. May I so run, that I shall obtain it. Enable me to continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. O teach me the duty of perseverance, by a conviction of the uncertainty of life. Those servants only shall be blessed, whom when the Lord cometh, he shall find watching.—Give me, I beseech thee, such views of the foes that are within and around me, as shall lead me to continual dependence on thy grace, and unremitted diligence in thy will. Imbue me with courage of mind and

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strength of heart, to overcome all the hinderances which Satan, or the world, or my own passions, may cast in my way.—Heavenly Father, let nothing be able to separate me from thy love in Christ Jesus. O, love me with an everlasting love. May he that is the Ransom of sinners, save me unto the uttermost. May thy Holy Spirit seal me unto the day of redemption, and be my Comforter, to abide with me forever. And then, in that inheritance which is incorruptible, and that fadeth not away, I will praise thee for the power of thy grace, by which I shall have been kept, through faith, unto salvation.

PIETY.

God of Salvation, vouchsafe unto me a spirit of intelligent and devoted piety. Make me a Christian, not only in name, but in truth. May I watch diligently, lest while I have the form of godliness, I may be destitute of its power.—Lead me, I pray thee, into the constant exercise of repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Fill my heart with love to thee, thine ordinances, thy service, thy people, and all mankind. Give that love such strength and purity, that it shall fulfil thy law. Make it abound more and more, in knowledge and judgment, until I am filled with the fruits of righteousness, unto the glory and praise of God. Cleanse thou my heart from evil thoughts, and my life from wicked ways; and enable me to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. Make me meek and forgiving, sincere and humble. Let consistency, self-denial, and gratitude, pervade all my actions. Make me earnest in prayer, unwavering in faith, and joyful in hope. Prepare me for the quiet en-

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durance of every trial, and for the zealous performance of every duty. If I suffer as a Christian, let me not be ashamed, but glorify God on this behalf.

Lord, make me a follower of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. Permit me not to put a stumbling-block, or an occasion to fall, in my brother's way: but cause me to follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. May I so act before the world, that men may take knowledge of me, and be led to glorify our Father in heaven. May the same mind which was in Christ be also in me. As I have borne the image of the earthly, so let me bear the image of the heavenly; and of his fulness receive, and grace for grace. Blessed Lord, grant that by patient continuance in well-doing, I may seek for glory, and honour, and immortality, where the righteous shall shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father.

PITY.

Merciful Father, make my heart sensible to every object of pity. Blessed Jesus, thou hadst compassion on every subject of distress and misfortune. Thou didst mourn with them that mourned, and weep with them that wept. It was indeed the tenderness of thy love which brought thee to this world of wo, that thou mightest bless and save those who were ready to perish. O may the same mind be in me which was in Christ Jesus. Let no form of selfishness so harden my heart, that I shall fail to exercise compassion for the wants and woes of thy creatures. Let me not stop my ears to the cry of the needy, nor turn away my eyes from them that are stricken with misery. And let me not pity only

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in word and in tongue; but in deed and in truth: for so shall I know that I am of the truth, and assure my heart before thee, whose compassions fail not, else I should be consumed in thy presence.

Lord, grant that my deepest feelings of pity, my strongest yearnings of soul, may be over those who are living heedlessly, under the wrath of God. Let my heart's desire and prayer to thee be, that they might be saved. O magnify thy goodness in bringing them from the rebellion of sin, into the obedience of faith.

POPERY.

God of Truth, destroy the power of popery. Let not the Man of sin, the Son of perdition, continue to rule the nations with his rod of iron. Lord, how long shall men concede to weak mortals, like themselves, the claims of infallibility and absolution? How long shall sinful men be permitted to keep the consciences of their fellow-men—to dispense vain indulgences for sin—to cast out the commandments of God—to make thy law void by vain traditions—to prohibit the bread of life—and to exalt the worship of superstition over the services of simplicity and truth? How long, O Lord, shall they impiously arrogate to change a corruptible thing into the incorruptible body of Christ; and to dishonour the atonement of Jesus, by claiming for any that have been redeemed by his blood, an excess of obedience beyond the requirements of thy law? O redeem the victims of these delusions. May they learn that thou only art the object of worship; that thou only canst forgive sin; and that the Scriptures of truth are the only and all-sufficient rule which thou hast given us, to know how we may glorify and enjoy thee forever.

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Lord, cause thy word, thy Spirit, thy providence, and thy people, to concur mightily in overthrowing this great bulwark of Satan. May the spirit of love govern all thy saints in their efforts to recover the world from papal power. Transform all its temples into sanctuaries of righteousness; and into every heart that has been a shrine of its corruptions, put thou an altar consecrated to the pure service of the living God.

POVERTY.

Merciful Father, if it be thy will, preserve me from poverty. Let not my mind be harassed by fears as to what I, or those who may be dependent on me, shall eat or drink, or wherewithal we shall be clothed. Bestow on me a moderate competence of the means of support, and grant me thy favour in the enjoyment of it. Make me grateful to thee for thy past and present bounties. But, O Lord, if it be thy pleasure to strip me of my worldly comforts, and to bring me into deep and distressing need, let me not rebel against thee, nor complain of thy righteous providence. May I find more joy in trusting to thee, in the midst of adversity, than in all the pleasures which unsanctified wealth could bestow. Even though darkness should gather with forbidding gloom over all my expectations of worldly comfort, throughout all the remainder of my life, let the consolations of thy Spirit be more than enough to satisfy my soul. Make me rich in the hope of a better and a heavenly substance, which corrupts not in the enjoyment, perishes not in the using, but endures forever.

Lord, pity the poor. Soothe and relieve their wants. Protect them from oppression, and deliver

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them from him that spoileth them. Save them from the vices which so often accompany their lot. Raise up friends who shall feel for their wants, and supply their necessities.—Lord, let it be a prominent duty with Christians, to minister to those that are in need. May they remember that their Lord and Master had not where to lay his head, and that these stricken ones are his representatives on the earth. Show them that he who hath pity on the poor, lendeth to the Lord, who will pay him again: while he that oppresseth them reproacheth his Maker, and he that stoppeth his ears at their cry, shall also cry himself, and shall not be heard. Enable them to devise such employment for the needy, as shall at once confer on them the blessings of industry and self-support. May those who have no silver nor gold to give, bestow their sympathies and counsels, which are often worth more than money.—And above all, may they seek, through thy Spirit, to confer on them that godliness which is profitable unto all things.

Lord, bless those public charities which are designed to relieve the distresses of the destitute. Give minds of discretion, and hearts of pity, to those who control them. As these works of mercy are the fruits of the gospel, so may they be conducted in its spirit, and result in its choicest blessings. Though thou hast said that the poor shall never cease out of the land, yet do thou abate the sorrows, and remove the evils, of their condition; and make multitudes of them rich in faith toward God, and in the hope of salvation.

PRAISE.

O thou Most High, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. The heaven of heavens cannot

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contain thee. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. With thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou art infinitely more exalted above us, than we are above the smallest insect of creation. Lord, thou knowest all things: thou art the only wise God, wonderful in counsel, and infinite in knowledge. Thou art able to do, exceeding abundantly, above all that we can think. Thou art of purer eyes, than to behold evil. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. The works of nature, the movements of providence, and the plan of redemption are full of thy goodness. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Lo, all thy ways are perfect!

Lord, grant me such adoring views of thy character, as shall be delightful foretastes of that praise which is the incense of thy worship in heaven. May I rejoice that the government of the world, and of the universe, is in the hands of a perfect being, who will do all things well. Make me esteem thy favour as the highest honour, and the most glorious privilege, which men or angels can enjoy. O may I often set my feeble and corrupt powers in contrast with thine infinite and spotless perfections, that I may thus at once take my place in the dust before thee, and magnify thy great and glorious name.—[*See* THE VARIOUS ATTRIBUTES.]

PRAYER.

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray, and quicken me by thy Spirit, that I may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Give me clear and abiding views of the nature of this solemn act of worship. Grant me a proper estimate of thy character, as infinitely able and willing to bless all who would approach the throne of grace, according to thy will. Enable me

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to make thy glory the ruling object of my desires; and to present them only in the name of the heavenly Mediator; whom thou always hearest, for in him thou art ever well-pleased. May every supplication be offered in the wish and hope that Jesus will present it, with his prevailing intercession, at the throne of grace. Lord, make me feel my entire and continual dependance on thee for all the blessings I possess, or hope to enjoy. O do thou give me such a craving sense of want, such a conviction that there is no other source of relief, and such confidence in thy promises, that supplication shall be the language of my tongue, the thought of my heart, and the food of my soul.

Great God, thou art, indeed, not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest to all, life, and breath, and all things. It is in mercy to us that thou art willing to hear and answer the prayer of penitence and faith. Thou hast moreover commanded it, as our imperative duty—thus making our privilege and our obligation one and inseparable.

Infinite Fountain of Blessing, grant me the influences of thy Spirit, to show me what I should pray for, and the way in which I should draw nigh to the mercy-seat.—Teach me, I pray thee, the various and numerous wants of my dependent nature, until my thoughts shall grow familiar with them, in all their number, and my heart shall be absorbed by convictions of their importance. Lord, dispose me to submit every object of hope and every pursuit of desire, by prayer, to the control of thy will: and do thou turn me away from continuing or completing any thing, which has not the sanction of thy favour, and upon which I cannot invoke thy blessing. O

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Lord, suffer me not to confine my supplications to my own wants; but do thou give me a spirit of prayer on behalf of others. Make me feelingly alive to all the interests of thy church, and abundant in intercession for her knowledge, purity, and increase. O burden my heart with anxious solicitude for the impenitent; and lead my feelings out in earnest and importunate pleadings for their salvation.—Lord, suffer me not to approach thee, on any subject, with thoughtlessness or insincerity. Restrain me from a wandering and corrupted mind. May every petition be the expression of true and anxious feeling. Suffer me not to forget my supplications, with the passing breath that utters them; but do thou cause my memory to retain them, and my hope to pursue them; and if I receive not, may I be assured that it is because I ask amiss.

Father of Mercy, assist me to bring my desires into conformity to thy will. Let me not ask thee for any thing inconsistent with thy holy and sovereign pleasure.—Help me to come in the humble boldness of faith to thy throne, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou art indeed more ready to hear than I am to pray; and more willing to give than I am to ask. Enable me, I pray thee, to come to thee in the confidence with which I would approach an earthly parent: for if such an one knows how to give good gifts to his children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and enable me to believe that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.—Teach me that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me. Do thou therefore cleanse my heart, that my desires may go

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forth unspotted by sin, and find acceptance in thy sight. Lord, lead me to the thankful acknowledgment of past mercies; and dispose me to hope from them for the bestowment of future good.—Bring me to thee, O Searcher of hearts, with humble confession of sins; for it becomes me to say, that instead of having any claim to thine audience and favour, I have only deserved thy displeasure. It is of thy grace that I am even permitted to plead for mercy.

Heavenly Father, dispose me to fulfil every suitable occasion of devotional duty. May I love the public and social supplications of thy saints. Let me not withhold the incense from the family altar. May I delight to hold converse with thee, where there is no other eye to watch, and no other ear to hear, and where I shall feel that I am alone with God. And give me, Blessed Master, that spirit of ejaculatory prayer, which will purify every current of my thoughts, and sanctify every business of my life.—O Lord, enable me, in all the vicissitudes of life, to watch unto prayer, and to find that it is good for me to draw nigh to God. May I wrestle, as did thy servant of old, who had power with thee, and prevailed. And may my soul ascribe, in sincerity and love, the praise of all the mercies I derive from thee, to thy matchless grace in the Redeemer, both now and forever. Amen.

PRESS.

God of Wisdom, I thank thee for the invention of the art of printing, by which temporal knowledge and heavenly wisdom have been scattered, in copious profusion, over the face of society. I desire to regard it as a noble instrumentality for imbuing

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every mind with useful learning, and every heart with saving truth. Yet do thou teach me that its capacity to do good, is often fearfully perverted to do evil. For, O, its works often teem with the pages of folly and slander, licentiousness and infidelity: and its periodical issues, which might be the guardians of public welfare, and the monitors of public virtue, are, many of them, crowded with scandal and falsehood, vice and impiety, which destroy the common good, and deprave the common morality. Gracious God, supplant all these corrupting influences; and cause the whole power of this mighty engine to be exercised on behalf of the temporal and eternal interests of the human family.

Lord, purify our literature in all its forms, and make it auxiliary to religion. Elevate and sanctify the aims of authors, and cause their fountains of thought to flow forth in streams that shall refresh and fertilize the human mind. Let intelligence, prudence, and virtue, control our periodicals of every class. Create distaste and aversion in the reading public, towards every thing that is subversive of morality.

Merciful God, make the press an important means of ascertaining every disputed truth and duty, and of fixing them on immovable foundations. Preserve its liberty, but overthrow its licentiousness. Let it circulate useful knowledge, of every kind, among all the inhabitants of the world. Make it the gift of tongues, to proclaim, in every language, the wonderful works of God. Let the Holy Bible, the sacred tract, the religious paper, and the evangelical volume, reach every household of earth, and fill every mind of man with saving knowledge.

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PRIDE.

O thou who hast said that no flesh shall glory in thy presence, redeem and preserve me from the spirit of pride. Show me its folly and sinfulness; and incline me to watch closely against its corrupting influence over my soul. Lord, why should a worm of the dust, a being of weakness, want, and dependence, exalt itself in the vanity of self-sufficiency, and ask the tribute of praise or homage from its fellow-creatures? O, thou hatest pride; thou makest it go before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Lead me, I pray thee, to reflect that this wicked spirit cast out the rebel angels from their first estate, into that fearful darkness, where they are reserved in everlasting chains; and that by it man was beguiled, in the garden of Paradise, into that disobedience which brought death into the world; and that it has ever since been a fountain of guilt, sending forth innumerable streams of corruption and desolation. Enable me to set this vice in strong contrast with the meekness of Christ, and with that humility, by which are riches, and honour, and life. Lord, wherefore should I glory, since all that I am, and all that I have, are the gifts of thine unmerited goodness? O do thou give me such abiding perceptions of thy greatness and excellency, and of my own weakness and unworthiness—such views of the presumption, sinfulness, and danger of pride, and of the beauty and blessedness of meekness—as shall lead me to renounce, at once and forever, the dominion of a haughty spirit.

Great God, stain the pride of human glory. May sinners learn the vanity and guilt of every thing that exalts itself against the will of God. Teach

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them that neither birth, nor learning, nor wealth, nor rank, is noble in thy sight: while the humble and childlike are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. O thou exalted Jehovah, bring all their thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Let them that glory, glory in the Lord; who though he be to carnal men a stumblingblock and foolishness, is yet to them that are called, the power of God, and the wisdom of God, unto salvation!

PRISONS.

Lord, pity those whose crimes have brought on them the retributions of human justice, and who are shut up in the gloomy walls of the prison-house. Do thou kindle the sympathies of the humane for them. Make them the objects, not of exulting revenge, but of reforming compassion. Rebuke the indifference and neglect of thy people towards them. May they remember that it was restraining grace which saved themselves from a similar or worse doom. Let that love, which teaches us to do good to those that injure us, devise and execute blessings for them. May they be persuaded that thy spirit is able to renovate them, though they be the chief of sinners.—God of Wisdom, make the laws that punish criminals suitable to their several offences; and let the certainty, rather than the severity, of the penalty, be sought in the enactments and execution of justice. May the whole treatment of them be such as shall both punish and reform them.

Lord, I bless thee that the attention of enlightened and pious minds has been drawn to consider and correct the abuses of prison discipline. By their efforts, suitable edifices have been built; the corruptions of free intercourse between the convicts

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have been prevented; habits of industry and sobriety have been formed; useful knowledge and religious instruction have been imparted; and man, whose bondage on earth seemed to be a certain token of an everlasting captivity, have been made to rejoice in the liberty of thy children. Extend, I pray thee, in the name of Jesus, the blessings of this system to every prison. And grant that when thou openest the prison-doors to them that are bound, they may go forth, not to prey upon, but to bless society.

Gracious God, abate and remove the necessity of punishment, by the decrease and extinction of crime. Let the time soon come, when, in the universal prevalence of virtue, our jails and penitentiaries shall be crumbling heaps of ruins, or stand as monuments of past guilt and present reformation.

PRIVILEGES.—*See Means of Grace.*

PROCRASTINATION.

Lord, keep me, for Christ's sake, from that indolence of heart, and that aversion to duty, which would lead me to evade or postpone the claims of present obedience. Let me not put off for to-morrow nor futurity, that which ought to be done to-day. Suffer not the hope of a more convenient season to defraud thee of that service which thou requirest of me now. O grant me knowledge to discern thine accepted time, and zeal to do at once, and with earnest willingness, what my hand findeth to do.

O Lord, how many have cheated their consciences and expectations, with intentions of future repent-

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ance, and are now reaping the bitter fruits of their foolish and sinful delay, where repentance never comes. I beseech thee, explode that wretched fallacy of hope, which binds up such multitudes in the fetters of sloth, and delivers them over to the chains of the second death. O, awake those who are lulled by this opiate of sin, and teach them the vanity and guilt of delaying to make their peace with thee. Let none be deluded by the expectation of a death-bed repentance. Teach them how vain it is to expect that in those hours, when the judgment is unfit to discharge the ordinary duties of life, it shall be competent to encounter and decide aright, the weighty interests of eternity. Let none deceive themselves with the vain hope of waiting for God's time. May they hear thy voice saying to them, "Behold, now is the accepted time: this is the day of salvation." Draw them unto thee, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious. Show them that if they will still refuse to come to thee, their hearts will grow hard and unfeeling; thy Spirit may cease to strive with them; the stroke of death may cut them off from the dwelling-place of mercy; and then they will lift up the unavailing cry, "How have we hated instruction, and despised reproof.—The harvest is past, and we are not saved!"

PROFANITY.

Lord, let me not take thy holy name in vain. Keep me from profaning or abusing any thing whereby thou makest thyself known; and lead me into a holy and reverend use of thy names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

Suppress, I beseech thee, the profanity which so shamefully abounds in the world. O, I would la-

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ment before thee, that because of swearing, the land mourneth. May all who are guilty of this transgression, be persuaded that it is an unprovoked, a wilful, and presumptuous sin against the Most High, whose name is exalted, that every knee should bow, and every tongue confess before him, in the deepest reverence and self-abasement. Thou hast revealed thy name, and character, and dealings, that mankind should praise, and supplicate, and obey thee: but they have, in their madness of heart, made this knowledge the occasion of impious profaneness. Lord, show them that thou wilt not hold those guiltless, who take thy name in vain. They that love cursing, shall be cursed. Adorable Jehovah, give them a speedy repentance and forsaking of their sin. Grant that every tongue which has abused thy majesty, may become a voice of thanksgiving and prayer.

PROMISES.

Great Fountain of Blessing, I thank thee that thou hast strengthened the faith, and established the hopes, of thy chosen people, throughout all generations, by many precious promises. Even in that day when our first parents forfeited, by iniquity, their birthright to Paradise, thou didst give the pledge of thy truth, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and thus recover our race from the ruins of the apostasy. And ever since, in all thy revelations to men, thou hast been pleased to declare, abundantly, thy rich purposes of mercy. They are scattered over every page of thy word; they are suited to every variety of Christian experience and trial; and they are so plain, that he who runs may read. The history of thy heritage,

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in all ages, has borne witness that they are steadfast and true; for they are established on the faithfulness of the God of Truth. Lord, I desire to magnify and extol thee for those assurances of comfort in this life, and of bliss in that to come, which gather in countless profusion around the cross of Christ. Blessed be thy name, thy promises are Yea and Amen in him, unto the glory of God.

O that they might be embalmed in my memory, and be cherished in my confidence; for they are more precious than rubies, and more enduring than the foundations of the earth. Make them, I beseech thee, the means of dispelling my sorrows, of scattering my doubts, and of exciting my zeal. May I regard them with overflowing gratitude to thee, as the pledges of thine eternal truth and goodness; as the beacons which thou hast set to light up the gloomy pathways of life, and to throw over the pillow of death, the dawning beams of an unclouded immortality.

O God, fulfil speedily thy promises to the Daughter of Zion. Let not her ways mourn, nor her gates be desolate, nor her priests sigh, nor her people be in bitterness. Put off her sackcloth, and gird her with gladness. Give her the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Cause her righteousness to go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. O create her a rejoicing, and thy people a joy, throughout the whole earth.

PROSPERITY.

Lord, suffer me not to be anxious for worldly prosperity. O let me not forget its fearful dangers —how often it leads the soul away in forgetfulness and ingratitude from God; how it binds the heart in

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the fetters of worldly conformity and self-indulgence; how it nourishes pride, indolence, and unfeelingness, and palsies faith, zeal, and prayer.

Lord, if it please thee to bestow abundance on me, enable me to use it, not in fulfilling the lust of the flesh, but for thy glory and the good of man. If riches increase, let me not set my heart upon them. Make me willing to surrender them at thy call. May I remember that the duration of their enjoyment must at best be short; that their pleasures are mixed with vanity and vexation of spirit; and that thou wilt judge men according to the plenty they enjoy from thee. O give me such views of thy better inheritance, as shall preserve me from the thraldom of those vices which spring from a prosperous life. Give such strength to my hope of the eternal weight of glory, that all the enjoyments of earth shall be barren and tasteless in the infinite contrast. O make me ever mindful of the solemn warning, "How hardly shall they that have riches, enter into the kingdom of God!"

Heavenly Father, let me not be envious nor rebellious when I see the prosperity of the wicked. Surely thou hast set them in slippery places. They that will be rich fall into temptations and snares, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Lord, what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

God of Beneficence, enlarge the souls of those on whom thou hast cast the mantle of plenty. May they bless the Lord, and forget not all his benefits. Make them rich in good works, and ready to distribute, according as thou hast prospered them. Teach them that the silver and the gold are thine, and

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make them the stewards of thy bounty—willing instruments in sustaining and enlarging every work of faith and labour of love. Give them grace to lay up treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

PROVIDENCE.

Great Sovereign, thou hast prepared thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. Thou dost thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, nor say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou callest the stars by name, and numberest the hairs of our heads: thou upholdest the sparrow, and givest strength to the seraph. Lord, I would praise thee for thy most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all thy creatures. If thou shouldst withdraw the energies of thy power from the works of thy hands, they would all fall back at once into non-existence. But blessed be thy name, thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation.

Great God, enable me to see and acknowledge thy hand in all the movements of thy providence. Make me realize my immediate and absolute dependence on thee, and my obligations to thy preserving and governing wisdom. Suffer me not to impeach any of thy ways: for though thy dealings may often seem to the eye of feeble sense to be confused or mysterious, yet in thy sight they stand in perfect order, and are clothed with unshadowed light. Make me submissive to every token of thy will. May I praise thee in joy and in grief: because it is the Lord that giveth, and that taketh away. Thou

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art indeed wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Thou givest the mercies of every day's life to the evil, as well as to the good. But it is only for them that love thee, that thou makest thy providence and grace work together for good.—Exalted Jehovah, may the solemn truth that thy kingdom ruleth over all, lead me to seek thy favour, as the chief blessing of life; and to do thy pleasure, as it is done in heaven.

PRUDENCE.

O thou who only art wise, vouchsafe to me that prudence which is the dwelling-place of wisdom. Preserve me from a heedless and an impetuous spirit. Make every purpose of my heart, and every action of my life, the result of prayerful consideration. Dispose me, I pray thee, to pursue every right object with a proper spirit. Let me not be governed by any rules of policy which are inconsistent with a good conscience; nor do evil that good may come. Instruct me in all my personal and relative duties; and give me sanctified knowledge and discreet zeal, to meet and discharge them, in the sight of God. Grant me the instruction of thy word, which is able to make me wise unto salvation; and the teachings of thy Spirit, which searchest the deep things of God, and beareth witness with my conscience, whether I walk in the way, the truth, and the life.

REGENERATION.—*See Conversion.*

REPENTANCE.

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I be-

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seech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, "Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

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O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart, not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

REPROOF.

O thou Holy One, suffer me to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but may I rather reprove them. Cause my conduct to stand forth as a sentence of condemnation against them, both in my scrupulously avoiding that which is evil, and resolutely cleaving to that which is good. Give me a holy courage to bear the testimony of my voice against transgression. But, O, let it not be done in anger, but in love and humility, and with prayer.—Lord, may I be encouraged in this duty, by remembering that it is thy will that we should in any wise rebuke our neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.—If any of the brethren be overtaken in a fault, make me feel that it is both my duty and privilege to restore such a one, in the spirit of meekness. Show me that the eternal interests of the ungodly require me to take up this cross; for the

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want of my reproof may leave him unmolested in his sin, to spread its contagion on others, and to go down with it to the bosom of perdition; while my faithfulness may be the blessed means of redeeming him from the dominion of iniquity, and of leading him to seek the salvation of his soul.

Lord, dispose me to receive rebuke with meekness and thankfulness. Make me open to conviction, and dispose me to acknowledge and forsake my evil. O may all that are the subjects of Christian reproof, reflect, that he who is often reproved, and still hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

RESIGNATION.—*See Affliction, Submission.*

RESURRECTION.

God of the living, thou hast revealed the doctrine that thou wilt raise these mortal frames, at the day of judgment, from their long decay of death, and make them joint-heirs with our spirits in the retributions of eternity. All that are in the graves shall hear thy voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the

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hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

RETIREMENT.

Lord, dispose and enable me to cultivate and enjoy the blessings of Christian retirement. Grant me many of those precious hours of peaceful seclusion, in which I shall find rest from the cares and corruptions of the world, and reflect on my past conduct, my present character, and my future purposes. O may they be seasons when I shall fill with heavenly oil, and kindle with holy fire, the lamp of my profession; and when I shall hold sweet communion with thee at thy mercy-seat. Vouchsafe that when I thus retire from the world, it may be in order to replenish my soul, and return again to the duties of life, strengthened by thy grace, and richly laden with gospel blessings. O thou who didst seek the lonely desert, the solitary mountain, and the covert of night, make my withdrawings from the busy scenes of earth, such as thine own were—hours full of holy love to God, and fraught with good-will to man.

REVENGE.

Heavenly Father, convince my judgment of the folly, and my heart of the sin, of revenge. Persuade me that it can neither preserve me from harm, nor procure me any good; while it stirs up wrath

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and retaliation, and arrays against it the anger of a holy God. I pray thee, for the sake of Jesus, let me not render evil for evil to any man. Give me patience under provocation, meekness under injury, and good-will under revenge. Suffer me not, in any case, to avenge myself: for vengeance is thine, and thou wilt repay.

REVIVALS.

Blessed God, revive thy work; in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Let not thy heritage be in bondage to sin and slothfulness; nor the ungodly go down to death, without the strong, and special, and redeeming influences of thy Holy Spirit. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children: and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Make the wilderness like Eden; and the desert like the garden of the Lord: let joy and gladness be found therein, with thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Great God, may all thy ministers be indeed preachers of righteousness, and ambassadors for Christ. Sanctify their motives, and inflame their zeal. Give them wisdom to devise, and faithfulness to execute, such efforts as shall promote thy glory, in the work of saving souls. Let them not heal the hurt of the daughter of thy people slightly; saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. May they search Jerusalem, as with lighted candles; and apply thy truth to all their hearers, with plainness, fulness, and pungency. Bless the word of their mouth, and accompany it with the demonstration of thy Spirit.

O Lord, let judgment begin at the house of God. Take away the hopes of those who have the form of

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godliness, without its power. Convince thy people of sin against thee, against each other, and against the souls of the ungodly. Bring them to repentance that needeth not to be repented of. Break from them the fetters with which the world, the flesh, and the devil, have encompassed them. Give them that clearness and strength of faith, by which they shall learn the value of their own souls, and the worth of the souls of perishing sinners around them.

Heavenly Father, burden the hearts of thy people with earnest desires for the revival of pure and undefiled religion. May they present fervent, importunate, and believing prayer, at the throne of thy grace, for the prosperity of Zion, and the salvation of the ungodly. O fill them with thy Spirit, and cause them to abound in love, zeal, and holiness. May they love the places where supplication is wont to be made, and where souls have been born to God. Give them grace to uphold, by prayer, the hands of thy ministers, whilst thou art using such to carry forward the triumphs of the gospel. Make thy saints willing to adopt and sustain those measures which are agreeable to thy will, and which receive the abiding sanction of thy Spirit. Lord, cast up and remove every stumblingblock out of the ways of Zion. Give thy servants unity of feeling and action; and lead them to act in the faith of thy word, wherein thou hast said, that if two shall agree on earth, as touching any thing they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father in heaven. Let the blessing of the Lord our God be upon them; and establish the work of their hands upon them: yea, the work of their hands, establish thou it.

O Most High, visit with convincing and convert-

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ing power, the consciences of sinners. Bring them within the reach of the preached gospel, and the hearing of effectual prayer. May thy Spirit set home to their hearts the truth, which is able to make them wise unto salvation. Make them feel deeply, that they are guilty before thee; and that instead of having the offer of salvation, thy righteous retribution would blast them in everlasting death. O, may they cherish the workings of the Holy Ghost within them, and fear lest that Divine Agent give them up to blindness of mind, and hardness of heart. Let that godly sorrow, which worketh life, possess every feeling of their souls. Show them that now is the accepted time, and this the day of salvation. Give them clear, and convincing, and persuading views of Christ, as the only, and all-sufficient, and infinitely willing Saviour. O God, grant, for the honour of Jesus, that now, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious, they may renounce their iniquities, receive Christ, as he is freely offered in the gospel, and give themselves to thee, in a covenant never to be forgotten.

Lord of Hosts, make the fruits of revivals glorious in the history of thy church. May their converts to righteousness be for multitude, as the drops of the dew in the morning. May they be distinguished for consistent piety and holy zeal, and be honoured instruments in multiplying the trophies of redeeming grace, until the Lord shall have made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall have seen the salvation of our God. And to God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be all the praise in earth and heaven, now and forever. Amen.

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RICHES.—*See Prosperity.*

RIGHTEOUSNESS.

O thou who art righteous in all thy thoughts, purposes, and ways, give me, I pray thee, the character and blessings of righteousness. Make me just to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures. But, O keep me from trusting to my own fancied merits. Rebuke and dispel every thing like self-confidence, and lead me humbly to the foot of the cross, there to find both the mercy of acceptance, and the grace of obedience. Behold, O God, my Shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed. May he be for me the end of the law for righteousness. May I desire to be found only in him, not having on mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is through the faith of Christ, and which is of God, by faith. O, may the accepted works which flow from that atoning union with him, be found in all my walk and conversation. Cleanse me from dead works to serve the living God. Make me diligent in working out my own salvation, knowing that thou workest in me both to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure. May I love mercy and do justice towards all men; and whatsoever I would that they should do to me, in temporal or spiritual things, may I do even so to them.—Blessed Source of all good, fill me with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

SABBATH.

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer for the merits of Jesus, the Heavenly Advocate, give me

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grace, I beseech thee, to remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. In six days thou didst make heaven, earth, and sea; and didst rest the seventh day: wherefore thou hast blessed the Sabbath, and hallowed it. I thank thee, God of Mercy, for that consecrated season, in which thou givest rest to our wearied natures, and affordest us leisure for reflection on our duties in this world, and our destinies in the world to come. I thank thee for its privileges of praise, of prayer, and of instruction, by which thy saints are built up in faith and zeal, and sinners are brought from the darkness and iniquity of carnal nature, to the light and holiness of heavenly grace. I would praise thee that there still remaineth this rest to the people of God. Thou hast made the Sabbath for man; and thou hast abolished neither its privileges nor its duties; but thou wilt continue them down to the end of the world.

O that I might always be in the Spirit on the Lord's-day.—May I remember that thou hast given me six days of the week for my own employments, and hast challenged a special ownership of the seventh; and that thou hast given it the sanction of thine own example and blessing. O let me not profane that holy time by idleness; nor by doing that which is in itself sinful; nor by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations. May I sanctify it by a holy resting, even from such avocations as are lawful on other days; and spend all its sacred hours in the public and private exercises of God's worship; except so much as may be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. Let that day ever be a precious occasion, wherein thy love shall be richly manifested to me, and my affections shall hold free,

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and holy, and rejoicing communion with thy Spirit. May I be prepared by its sanctifying duties and reviving pleasures, for serving thee and mankind better, in all the relations of life. O make it a blessed type of that eternal Sabbath, which is reserved for the pure in heart, in the regions of unmingled bliss.

Lord, save thy holy day from the desecration which has been so fearfully brought upon it. Thou seest how men pursue on it their carnal pleasures and worldly interests, regardless of thy statutes, and the ultimate welfare of their country, and of mankind. Even those who have made a covenant with thee, to keep thy commandments, sometimes join hand in hand with the ungodly, in these profanations of sacred time. O that thy people would set their faces as flint against these transgressions, and bear the testimony of their voice and conduct against them. Bring not thy wrath upon our land, because its inhabitants make the Sabbath their season of amusement, convenience, and lucre. Teach all men that it is thine imperative will, that they should sanctify that day: and that thou hast judgments in store for its transgressors;—while they who turn away their feet from polluting it, and from doing their pleasure on it, and shall call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shall honour thee, not doing their own ways, nor finding their own pleasure, nor speaking their own words—they shall ride upon the high places of the earth, and shall be fed with the heritage of Jacob; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!

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Lord, thou hast taught us that it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath-day. I thank thee, that in mercy towards the ignorance and wickedness of the world, thou hast established the system of Sunday-schools. I would praise thee that they have been spread so widely, and that so many heart-cheering fruits have sprung from them. Thou hast made them instrumental in elevating the standard of religious knowledge, and active piety, in the church. They have been the means of dispelling ignorance and superstition, and of moulding the character of our youth in right knowledge and moral feeling. And blessed be thy mercy for that which is worth more than every other blessing; they have been made the nurseries of the Lord, from which many plants of righteousness have been transferred to the gardens of thy church, there to bear fruit unto eternal life. And of these, not a few are now singing, in everlasting bliss, the song of redemption to him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Gracious God, I would humbly trust that these things are but the introductory tokens of the glorious influences which this heaven-born system will yet exert on behalf of our ruined race. Lord, am I not warranted, from thy word, and from the nature of things, to expect that the religious instruction of our children and youth, when it shall become universal, and shall be conducted with that preparation of the heart and answer of the tongue, which are from the Lord,—will secure that outpouring of thy

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Holy Spirit, which will fill the earth with thy knowledge, even as the waters cover the deep?

Great Shepherd of Israel, may all that seek the prevalence and triumph of the gospel, give this cause their sanction and help.—Make thy ministers watchmen and husbandmen in it, who shall give it the service of the eye, and of the lips, and of the hands, with willing and diligent hearts.—May all who have made a covenant with thee by sacrifice, and who stand pledged that they will not live unto themselves, inquire what thou wilt have them to do in this labour of love. O that there were heart-burnings of shame, and deep repentings of soul, among those who have refused to come up to the help of the Lord, in this work of faith.—Lord, give this cause favour in the eyes of parents, and of the world at large. May they all delight to honour and promote it.

Father of Mercies, I would invoke thy blessing on all who are engaged in it as teachers. Give them knowledge to discern, and zeal to fulfil, the important duties of their office. Show them that their service relates to filling the immortal mind with the riches of religious knowledge; and to converting the soul from sin and death unto holiness and everlasting life. O that they would understand, and meet, and discharge, these awfully solemn responsibilities!—Lord, give them grace to help in all their times of need. May they live in constant dependence on the teaching and blessing of the Holy Ghost. Put into their hearts that well of living water, which springs up into everlasting life; and let every work of their hands be nourished by that fountain of piety within them.—May they teach by a living example, that shall be seen and read by

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all their scholars—that shall make them as a city set on a hill—that shall be as salt to purify and save their classes.—Give them an ample and well-digested knowledge of divine truth. Make them wise in the treasures of the book of nature, and the volume of thy providence. Make them apt to teach —in simplicity, in patience, in love, in judgment, and in perseverance.—May all teachers love each other out of pure hearts, fervently; and keep the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace. Make them helpers to each other in mutual study, and in private and social prayer.—Preserve their hearts from the influence of the discouragements which beset their office. Let them not be cast down, nor driven back from their work, by difficulties within the school, or by apathy or opposition without it. Let them not be weary in well-doing; but do thou strengthen them by thy precious promises, that in due season they shall reap, if they faint not; and that though they may now often go forth, bearing precious seed, and weeping, yet they shall hereafter return, bringing many sheaves with them.

Heavenly Father, visit by thy mercy, those who are taught in Sunday-schools. Though foolishness is bound up in their hearts, thou canst supplant it by divine wisdom. Though thou seest that the imagination of their hearts is evil, thou canst create in them a new heart, and renew a right spirit within them.—Lord, make them punctual, attentive, obedient, and diligent. Seal instruction on their minds. Let not thy word return from them void; but do thou prosper it in the thing whereunto thou sendest it. Let it not be as water that is spilled on the ground, and cannot be gathered. O make their hearts as good ground, which will give growth to

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the seed of truth, and produce rich harvests of spiritual good. May they learn the worth of the undying soul; the guilt which sin has brought on them; and the fearful wrath which hangs over them in their impenitency. Show them, O Lord, the way thou hast provided, of escape from their guilt and danger; and do thou persuade and enable them, by the power of the Spirit, to receive Jesus as their Teacher, Saviour, and Ruler. Merciful Father, may it please thee to add to thy church from their number, many of such as shall be saved. Raise up from them many who shall be burning and shining lights—many who shall be abundantly blessed in the work of saving souls.

Lord, I offer these entreaties, not in my own merits, which are worthless in thy sight, but in the name of the Beloved—unto whom, with the Father and the Spirit, be sincere and endless praise.—[*See* TEACHERS, CHILDREN, EARLY PIETY.]

SACRAMENT.—*See Lord's Supper.*

SACRED MUSIC.

Let all that hath breath praise the Lord! Hearken, O my soul: the voice of universal nature is a song of glory unto God: and shalt thou, who hast shared his choicest mercies, keep silence before him? I thank thee, Gracious Maker, for the gift of speech. Incline me, I pray thee, to train and employ it in thy praise. Make me feel the importance of this portion of thy worship, in honouring thy name, in exciting feelings of devotion, and in obtaining thy blessing. Let it be an intelligent, sincere, and holy service. May I sing with the understanding, and

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with the spirit; making melody with my heart unto the Lord.

Lord, redeem the power of music from the foolish and profane uses to which it is so often applied. Let praise wait for thee, O God, in Zion. May thy saints teach and admonish one another, in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs; singing with grace in their hearts unto the Lord. Dispose thy people to give increased attention to this important service. Reform its abuses, in manner and in spirit. Let it not be profaned by insincerity, nor be made the instrument of vain glory. May all feel it to be their duty to fit themselves to join in it. Give it influence on the piety of the church, and let its words of wisdom fall with conviction on the ears of the ungodly. O may the days of praise of thy servants on earth, prepare them for that nobler worship, where every thought, and every feeling, and every sound, is a voice of melody, which hearts of bliss bring, like holy incense, to thy heavenly throne!

SALVATION.

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know, and a heart to feel, what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy, thou didst devise a scheme, by which they might be delivered from it, and be brought into an estate of salvation, through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him,

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in the fulness of time, to save that which was lost —to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And, O, that redemption which he brought, not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo, to be the objects of God's favour in this life, and the joint-heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven, among men, whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan, by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness, which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption, but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

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For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace, by some bereavement of their comforts, or some disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them feel that the redemption of the soul is precious, and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world, as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people, who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

SANCTUARY.

Lord, incline me to love the services of thy sanctuary; for a day in thy courts is better than a thousand spent in worldly pleasures. O that I might desire more to be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.—Lord, suffer me not to forsake the assemblies of thy saints. May I remember that Christ loved the synagogue; and that his disciples continued daily with one accord in the temple. There the rich and the poor meet together, and the Lord is the Maker of them all. There thou makest the hearts of thy saints to rejoice, and preparest them to run with renewed strength and increasing diligence, in their Christian race; and there thou makest the souls of thine enemies to tremble and bow before thy sovereign will. It is in thy house, O Lord, that thou

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showest the riches of thy mercy, and the strength of thy power!

Great Master of Assemblies, bring me to thy tabernacle with preparation of heart and with prayer. May I revere and love that gospel which is preached there. Incline me to hear it with close and devout attention, and with personal application. Make thy word to my heart as a fire that melteth, and as a hammer that breaketh the rock. Incline me to hear it with candour and kindness towards him who is its messenger; desiring that the words of his mouth may glorify God, and be used as the means of quickening and saving souls. Strengthen me, I pray thee, to obey, with full purpose of heart, all thy commands. They only are happy, who in knowing these things, are willing to do them; for not every one that saith, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doth the will of our Father in heaven. Make me a doer, as well as a hearer, of thy word. Lord, let not the impressions of thy truth escape with the occasion of its utterance. Dispose me to meditate on it in my heart—to digest it in my thoughts—to make it the subject of prayer—and to show it forth in my life. O let it not be as the seed by the wayside; nor as that on stony ground; nor as that among thorns:—but let it be like that which fell on good ground, and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold.

Grant, I pray thee, that when I call upon thy name in thy house, my prayer may not go out of feigned lips. Make it the homage of the creature to the Creator, and the supplication of a needy child to a rich and liberal Parent. And when I praise thee in the songs of Zion, may I render thee not

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only an outward, but an inward and spiritual worship.

Lord, bring within thy sanctuaries, the multitudes who spend their Sabbaths in idleness and sin. O, let not the walks of Zion be deserted, while the gates of hell are thronged with eager travellers. May thy people draw them by the bands of a man, and thy Spirit by the cords of love, until they shall come and fill to overflowing, the tabernacles of the righteous. And come thou, O God, in the greatness of thy love and majesty, and make thy courts melodious with the praises of souls newly ransomed by the power and grace of thy truth. And thy glorious name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall have the praise forever.

SANCTIFICATION.

O Most Holy, how impure is this heart which thou didst make to be the temple of the living God. But, thanks be to thy name, thou canst make me clean. Thy Spirit can sanctify me by thy truth, and by thy providence, and can change me into thine own image; making my powers fit for thy service, and my soul meet to be thy dwelling.

Lord, grant me that work of thy free grace, by which I shall be enabled, more and more, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May I remember that thou art holy; and that this is thy will, even our sanctification. May I look upon Jesus, in his character as a Saviour from sin. Show me in his sufferings and death, the guilt of man's sinfulness. Teach me by the rebellion of my own heart, its stubbornness and deformity. Convince me of its demerit, by vivid views of the unending punishment of the lost. O make me loathe trans-

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gression. Paralyze its power over my judgment, conscience, and affections; that the body of sin being destroyed, henceforth I may not serve sin, but be the servant of righteousness.

Great God, preserve the hearts of thy chosen generation from sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and do thou cause them to abound in the fruits of holiness. May thy grace sanctify them by a hope that purifieth, even as Christ is pure; by a love which seeks conformity to thine own image; and by a faith which looks at things that are not seen, and that are eternal.—Make them living epistles, seen and read of all men. Make them the salt of the earth—the means of leading a wicked and perverse generation, by the power of a good example, to glorify their Father in heaven. Gracious Sovereign, enable them to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Imbue them with that holiness without which no man can see the Lord. —[*See* HOLINESS.]

SATAN.

Merciful Father, protect me from the open and secret influences of Satan, who is the great adversary of souls. O let me not be heedless of the truth, that he exerts his power even on the hearts of thy saints. If the innocence of Paradise, and the spotless purity of Jesus himself, were not exempt from his devices, I surely should not hope to escape his assaults. But I implore the aid of thy grace, that I may resist them, and triumph over them. Bestow on me the shield of faith, wherewith I may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Give me wisdom to detect, and virtue to repel, all his countless temptations. Arm

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me, I pray thee, with the sword of thy truth, that I may resist the devil, so that he shall flee from me.

Lord, overthrow the power of Satan in the hearts of the children of disobedience. Let not this world be given up to his cruel dominion. Redeem those that are under his influence, and make them the servants of the living God. Lord of Hosts, cast out the prince of this world. Fulfil, speedily, thy promises, that thou wilt bruise the serpent's head; and that thou wilt bind the dragon, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he shall deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years are fulfilled, in which Christ shall reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

SAVIOUR.—*See Jesus Christ and Christmas.*

SCRIPTURES.

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good —for their examples, which are monitors of duty— for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil—and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of reve-

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2 lation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I
may understand and love the things of thy word.
2′ Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since
he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doc-
trine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed,
who continueth not in all things written in the book
of the law, to do them. O make the scriptures
3 profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correc-
tion, and for instruction in righteousness; that I
may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work.
3′ Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in
Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price,
which is the only passport to heaven. When my
3″ soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me accord-
ing to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly,
in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wis-
dom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith
to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all
3‴ the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy
word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright
cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which
the researches of the wise and good have gathered
over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and
1 every infidel, would learn from them the folly and
wickedness of their unbelief, and come with broken
hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy
mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help
thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and per-
suading, and controlling power, to the hearts and
2 consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual
means of converting sinners, and of building them
up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto sal-
3 vation.—May thy saints attend thereunto, with dili-

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gence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practising it in their lives.

Bestow, I pray thee, thy rich favour on Bible-classes. Thou hast been pleased to make them, in many instances, the instruments of turning the hearts of the disobedient. Establish them in every community. Let them be conducted in wisdom and grace, and result in multiplying greatly the trophies of redeeming love.

God of Truth, prosper with thy blessing, the efforts which have been made, and are now making, to give the word of life to those who, in our own, and in other countries, are perishing for lack of knowledge. I would extol thy mercy, that the sacred volume has been transmitted through so many generations, without corruption; and that it has been translated, and published, and multiplied, in so many tongues and nations of the earth. O reanimate, and strengthen, and extend these labours, until thy word shall have free course in every family throughout the world, and be glorified in bringing multitudes of souls into the kingdom of God. And to thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed the power, and dominion, and glory, forever.

SEAMEN.

Lord, remember the wants of them that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, and see thy wonders in the deep. Alas! how few of them can be said to have any Sabbath, any sanctuary, any home; and how few are there among thy people, that care for their bodies or their souls. Lord, preserve them in their constant perils by sea and by land. O thou that makest the storm a calm,

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that the waves thereof are still, restrain for them the raging tempest; quiet for them the devouring ocean; and send them in safety and gladness over their trackless journeys. And while their feet are upon land, keep them from straying among those forbidden paths, which are more dangerous than stormy winds, and sunken rocks, and treacherous seas.

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that this class of men, so long neglected, has at length arrested the sympathies of some in thy churches; and that successful measures have been undertaken, to make them the subjects of that gospel, which should be their anchor in port, and their chart at sea. Lord, spread widely through thy churches, a knowledge of the wants and claims of seamen. May thy people look with compassion on their toils and sufferings, their dangers and destitution; and be led, in the love of souls, to strive to bring them into the kingdom of heaven. Grant that these men, who have so long been the instruments of carrying the vices of civilization among the heathen, and all nations of the world, may soon become the heralds of the gospel, and carry to every coast of earth, the blessings of redeeming grace. O fulfil that vision of prophecy, in which the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto God!

SELF-CONSECRATION.

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by

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creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

SELF-DENIAL.

O Most High, enable me to deny myself, to take up my cross daily, and to follow my blessed Saviour; who, though he had shared with the Father, the glory from the beginning, yet made himself of no reputation; and though he had all power in heaven and earth, took upon him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Lord, grant me the spirit of self-denial in what I eat and drink, and wherewithal I am clothed. Let me not be a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. Make me temperate in every lawful pursuit. Help me to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. May I forsake uncleanness of thought, word, and action. Turn me away from the love of money, which is the root of all evil. Give me grace to stifle my desires for the praise of

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men, whose favour is indeed deceitful. Raise me above the fear of man, that bringeth a snare. Assist me, I beseech thee, to overcome my temptations to display and to self-righteousness; and let me count all things but loss, that I may be found in Christ, with that righteousness which is of God, by faith. Make me willing to give up every thing which will come in competition with the interests of my soul, or the welfare of thy kingdom. Yea, let me not count my life dear to myself, if I may avoid that which is evil, and cleave to that which is right: for whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but he that loseth his life for thy sake, shall find it.

SELF-DECEPTION.

Searcher of Hearts, suffer me not to dwell at ease in Zion, if I have only a name to live, and have not the lifegiving power of godliness. If my hope be false, O take it away before it becomes as that of the hypocrite—as a spider's web, or as the giving up of the ghost. Bestow on me, I beseech thee, thou Gracious One, a good hope through grace, which shall be as a house built on a rock, that shall not fall, though the rains come, and the winds blow, and beat upon it. May it be as an anchor to my soul, both sure and steadfast, entering into that within the vail. Lord, search me and try me, and see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. If I have indeed been deceived, O do thou open my eyes, and turn me from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that I may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith.

Great God, let there be searchings of heart among

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all that profess thy name. May they remember that those are not all Israel, who are of Israel. Not every one that saith, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven: for the King will say of many who would be guests at his heavenly table, "Bind them hand and foot, and take them away, and cast them into outer darkness—there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." O let all the victims of self-delusion cast off the robes of deceit, and put on the wedding garment; that they may be found among thy chosen ones, whom thou will feast with the fulness of joy, in thy presence, forevermore.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

Great Source of Wisdom, give me a habit of honest and searching self-examination, that I may prove myself, and know whether I am in the faith. Make me ever anxious to know the state of my heart, and the working of my motives. Guide and strengthen me, while I inquire of my soul and of thee, whether I acknowledge and mourn over my transgressions, and receive Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Have I indeed been born again—am I a new creature in Christ Jesus—and are the evidences of my new estate clear and increasing? Is the Lord my master to serve, and my portion to enjoy; and is the welfare of his kingdom the desire of my heart? Am I daily dying unto sin, and living unto righteousness? Am I thankful for mercies, and prayerful for blessings; pursuing the glory of God; doing to others as I would have them do unto me; and diligently seeking that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?

Teach me, O Lord, all my errors, weaknesses,

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and sins. Cleanse me from them by the enlightening, strengthening, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit. And O, may I remember that if I should be wilfully or heedlessly blind to my transgressions, thou, Lord, knowest them altogether. Let not self-love nor pride, hinder me from an impartial knowledge of myself. Preserve me from a false estimate of any part of my character. May I look at my principles as well as my conduct—and at my motives as well as my actions. Let me never mistake the excitement of feeling for the renewing of the Holy Ghost; nor the outward activities of religion for its inward spirit. Let me not judge of my religion by occasional impressions and impulses, but by my habit of life. Lord, make it worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called, and such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

SELFISHNESS.

Great Sovereign, let not my motives nor conduct be governed by selfishness. Teach me that this principle is the original and deep-rooted sin of my nature. O how has it exalted self above all other creatures, and above God himself! How has it filled the world, in all the length of its history, with pride, self-indulgence, contention, cruelty, and death.—Lord, suffer me not to set up my judgment against thy wisdom, nor my desires against thy will. Show me that thy will is the supreme law of both duty and happiness. Keep me from seeking my own interests heedlessly, or at the expense of the welfare of others. Make me realize that I am but a unit among the multitudes of thy rational creatures, each of whom has the same deep stake with myself, in the pursuit of comfort and well-being.—

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Thou hast said that he who would follow Jesus, must deny himself. Keep me from the character and wo of those that covet an evil covetousness, and who would grow rich in pleasure and worldly good, at the cost of the humble and needy. O let me not exclude myself from thy love, nor dishonour humanity, by shutting up my feelings of compassion at the cry of want or misery. Give me that charity that seeketh not her own, that goeth about doing good, even as did our Lord and Master.

Lord, preserve me from selfishness in the pursuits of religion. Though thou hast enjoined on me the most diligent efforts for growth in grace and personal salvation, thou hast laid necessity upon me, to spread the gospel among the destitute, and to warn souls from the broad way of death, and win them to the narrow path of life. O help me so to blend my duties to myself and my neighbour, that we together may be partners of thy fellowship on earth, and joint-heirs of thy communion in heaven.

SEMINARIES.

Great Teacher, bestow thy choicest favours on those who are now in training for the active duties of life, in our various institutions of learning. I thank thee that thou art multiplying the facilities of securing a liberal education, and that an increasing number of minds are receiving those acquisitions of knowledge, which impart dignity and usefulness to man. Yet, O Lord, I desire to remember that many youth, who were the hope of parents, and the pride of friends, have made shipwreck in our seminaries, of all that is valuable for time and eternity; and that unsanctified genius has often exerted, and may still exert, a fearful power to do evil.

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Lord, shelter these precious youth from the dangers to which they are exposed, by ambition, infidelity, and corruption. Thou seest that the large majority of them are unconverted; and that beside the peril that may accrue to their own souls, they are the germs of those influences which will spread weal or wo among mankind. Thou knowest that it is to these the church looks for the chief supply of that ministry, which thou hast appointed to preach the gospel to every creature.

Gracious God, make these institutions favourable, in the highest degree, for the promotion of useful learning and sound morals. May those who teach in them, be fitted in intellect and heart for their responsible duties. Grant that while their pupils are drinking from the fountains of human knowledge, they may also draw water out of the wells of salvation; and be prepared to go forth, into the walks of life, laden with the mingled treasures of wisdom and piety.

Lord, remember pious students. Suffer them not to forsake nor dishonour their profession of godliness. Let their example be moulded in righteousness. Give them willing hearts and abundant opportunities to do good in their station. O do thou make our seminaries subjects of deep interest and earnest supplication in thy church. Let that day of annual prayer which has been appointed for them, be a consecrated season among thy people. And grant, that often, very often, in the sacred desk, in the social meeting, and in the lonely closet, earnest entreaty may go up to thy throne, that thou wouldst take the precious jewels of educated mind, in these cabinets of knowledge, and purify and polish them, that they may reflect thy glory before earth and heaven.

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SERVANTS.

Heavenly Master, bless those that occupy the relation of servants. Teach them the duties of their station, and dispose them to do them in the fear of the Lord. May they count their masters worthy of honour, and obey them in singleness of heart, as unto Christ; with good-will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that whatsoever good things any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. Make them faithful in protecting and diligent in promoting the interests, reputation, and comfort of their employers.—O that they might always be treated with kindness and liberality; and thus be induced to a grateful attachment to those whom they serve. Lord, protect them from oppression, unkindness, and fraud. Make them contented and happy in the discharge of their lawful duties. May they remember that even the Son of Man took upon him the form of a servant, and came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Show them that their station is of the ordinance of God; and that by a faithful use of their opportunities, they may so labour in the service of heaven, that at the last day, their great Master may say unto them, "Well done, good and faithful servants; enter ye into the joy of your Lord."

SICKNESS.

Blessed and Only Potentate, in thy power are the springs of disease and the secrets of health. Thou makest sore, and bindest up: thou woundest, and thy hands make whole. If thou speak the word, the season of my sickness shall melt away into the refreshing glow of health: but if thou command it

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otherwise, it will change to the cold and gloomy darkness of death and the grave. Lord, make me content to leave its issues with thee. If it be thy will, then raise me up, to praise thee in the land of the living. But if not, prepare me for the valley of the shadow of death. May thy rod and staff comfort me, and thy hand minister unto me an entrance abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Parent, visit in great mercy, all that lie on beds of languishing. Induce them to reflect that disease is a mournful proof of human transgression. May they regard their sickness as the light recompense of their iniquities; and as the discipline of thy hand, which will either prepare them for better service on earth, and nobler enjoyment in heaven—or leave them to greater hardness of heart in this world, and deeper condemnation in the world to come. O Lord of Mercy, relieve their pains, or give them grace to bear them with enduring patience. Let them neither despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. Grant them confidence in thy wisdom, mercy, and power: for thou canst not err in thy judgment—thy chastenings work out the peaceable fruits of righteousness—and thy strength is made perfect in human weakness. May the light of thy countenance be more desirable to them, than even the gladness of returning health. O teach them in these hours of suffering, how brief and uncertain are earthly comforts—how weak and brittle is their hold on human life. Incline them, I pray thee, to renounce every human hope, and to look unto Jesus, as the great and only Physician of the soul. May they, by the exercise of faith in his atoning

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blood, consecrate themselves to him, that whether living or dying, they may be the Lord's.

Merciful Father, shed thy most tender compassions over those whose sickness is unto death. May thy saints be stayed in their hour of trial, upon thine everlasting arm, and go through the swelling tide with hope in their hearts, and rejoicing on their lips.—O let not the sinner venture to encounter the king of terrors with sullen indifference, nor deceptive hope. Although a death-bed repentance be an uncertain ground of trust, yet thy grace, which is sufficient for every emergency of life, can still redeem him, even in the gates of dissolution. O Jesus, speak to him, as thou didst to the thief on the cross, "To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

SIN.

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed, has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit, includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth, and has made us the prey of error. It has

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been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls, and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death, in the world, are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world, this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean;" and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence, in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope, if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety, I may approach thee, and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth salvation, so teach me to deny ungodliness, and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

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SINNERS.

Great God, affect my heart powerfully, by right views of the condition of sinners. O let not my soul be at ease in her possessions, while the earth is full of the workers of iniquity. Let not selfishness, nor unbelief, nor despondency, stupify my compassions for those who everywhere crowd the ways of destruction. May I look on them as rebels against thy law, over whom hang thy judgments, which may soon overwhelm them in remediless ruin. Give me deep yearnings over their awful guilt and danger. Dispose me to pray, in earnestness and faith, for their deliverance from sin; and lead me to strive to pluck them as brands from the burning. Lord, direct me in the choice and use of such measures as will promote the salvation of souls. O wilt thou give me the blessed privilege of turning some that were ready to perish, into the covert of redemption?

Compassionate Jehovah, kindle the love of souls in the breasts of all thy people. May deep concern for the spiritual wants of men, pervade their thoughts, direct their desires, and govern their conduct. O that all who call upon thy name for their own salvation, would earnestly ask what thou wilt have them to do, in saving the ungodly. Arm them, I pray thee, with those weapons of love which are mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. May they use the power of holy example, the wisdom of right knowledge, and the fervour of persevering zeal, to convince, and persuade, and win the unrighteous from their transgressions. Cause the remembrance of their own former impenitency and exposure to wrath, together with their gratitude

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for thy distinguishing grace, to excite their strong cryings to God, and their deep compassions and earnest efforts, for those who are living without hope and God in the world. Lord, set before the minds of believers, the weight of guilt and retribution which hangs over the impenitent; and cause them to feel and act upon the strong conviction, that in fulfilling their duty to such, they will enjoy peace of conscience, the joyful reward of faithful servants, and be the happy instruments of saving souls.

Lord, I would implore thy mercy on sinners themselves. Convince them of their deep-rooted depravity, and of the wrath they are treasuring up against the day of wrath. Let none deceive themselves with a vain admiration of their natural virtues; for these, instead of abating the enormity of their guilt, only stamp upon it the additional reproach, that they have ungratefully refused to consecrate these virtues to the Lord that bestowed them. O that thy love to them, in the mercies of thy providence, in the pleadings of thy word, in the gift of thy Son, and in the strivings of thy grace, might fill them with that repentance which is unto life. Persuade them that thou hast no pleasure in their death; but that thou art waiting to be gracious. Though they have destroyed themselves, in thee is their help: whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Let them not neglect so great salvation, lest they sin away the day of their merciful visitation; and then a great ransom will not deliver them. Lead them, I pray thee, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. May they look to him and be saved. And thy name,

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Father, Son, and Spirit, shall have the glory of their redemption, through time and eternity. Amen.

SLANDER.

Lord, suffer me not to be guilty of the vice of slander. Let me not through either mistake or prejudice, rashness or ill-will, charge evil falsely on my fellows. Make me tender of the reputation of all men; and especially of the household of faith.—O how has this sin impaired or destroyed individual comfort and usefulness, domestic and social bliss, and public peace! How has even the character of piety been soiled, and its means of doing good frustrated, by the words of suspicion, and talebearing and falsehood! Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously, against the righteous. O that all evil speaking would cease out of the world, and that all men would judge the motives, and state the conduct of others, in righteousness and truth.

Lord, keep my mouth from slander, and my lips from speaking guile. Incline me to take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue. May my speech be always with grace; for if any man offend not in word, the same is perfect, and is able also to bridle the whole body.

SLAVERY.

God of Truth and Love, direct aright the feelings and judgments of all men in relation to slavery. May they learn that it is a sin against the laws of God and the rights of man, which must, if not forsaken, avert thy blessed favour, and bring down thy sore displeasure. Thou hast said that love is the fulfilling of thy law; and that whatsoever we would

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that men should do to us, we must do even so unto them. Thou hast told us that the cries of them that reap without hire, enter into thine ears: and thou hast denounced heavy wo against him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong—that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work.—How long, O Lord, shall the selfishness of man appropriate to itself the time and the toil of the weak and needy, and degrade the immortal mind with ignorance and sin? Lord, let our land soon cease to be an astonishment and a reproach among the nations of the earth. May we cease to do evil, and learn to do well. Show us that righteousness exalteth a nation; but that sin is a reproach to any people.

Shepherd of Israel, take away the guilt of thy people in this matter, whether it be incurred by silence, approval, or fellowship. Bring them out from unrighteousness, that they may be separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Teach them that the righteous considereth the cause of the poor. Enable them to discern the signs of the times, and to adopt such measures as heavenly wisdom will own and bless. Make them realize that all men have one Father, and that they are verily guilty concerning their brother. May they remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them. May they open their mouth for the dumb, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.—O God of Zion, do thou take up the stumbling-block out of their way. Let them have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Yea, thou hast said that open rebuke is better than secret love; and that faithful are the wounds of a friend.

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May they in meekness, instruct those that oppose themselves; and yet be faithful witnesses, that shall cry aloud, and spare not; and who will show them their transgressions. Grant them in this warfare, the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous, which availeth much; and make them abundant instruments in advancing the cause of freedom, and saving those that are ready to perish.

Lord, look in mercy on the oppressor. Preserve him, I pray thee, from the vengeance of the oppressed. Touch his soul with a sense of his wrong, and of its danger. Show him that thou hast made of one blood, all nations of men, to dwell on all the face of the earth. May he remember, that he who oppresseth the poor, reproacheth his Maker. May he break off his sins, by righteousness; and his iniquity by showing mercy. O suffer him not to continue to take away the key of knowledge, and to seal over to vicious ignorance, the soul that God has made for the light of heaven. Let him not look on his own things only, but also on the things of others. Teach him that it is safe to do right; for is not the work of righteousness peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever? Lead him to trust in the Lord, and do good; so shall he dwell in the land, and verily, he shall be fed!

O thou that executest righteousness and judgment for the oppressed, wilt thou not proclaim liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof? Give the down-trodden rest from their sorrow, and their fear, and their hard bondage, wherein they are made to serve. Preach deliverance to the captives, and the opening of the prison-doors to them that are bound. But, O let it be a bloodless deliver-

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ance; and let the captive come forth by the will of his master; that God may be glorified as much in the repentance of the one, as in the liberty of the other. And when thou settest the slave free from the oppression of man, deliver him from the bondage of sin. Give him the liberty of the sons of God. Make him thy servant, that his fruit may be holiness, and the end everlasting life.

SORROW.—*See Grief.*

SOUL.

Eternal and Unchangeable Jehovah, thou hast given me a soul of deathless nature, and of priceless worth. The earthly house of this tabernacle shall be dissolved; the earth and all that is therein shall be burnt up; the heavens shall pass away; and time shall be no more—and still this spirit will live on, in imperishable youth. O, what is a man profited, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Riches make to themselves wings, and fly away; honour is but a passing breath of air; and pleasure perishes in the using:—but thou hast made the soul in the image of thine own eternity.

God of Wisdom, help me, for Christ's sake, to understand something of its ever-living value. Teach me that its powers of thought, memory, and affection will cling to it, with an everlasting increase; and will be instruments of exalting its hallowed pleasures, or of deepening its debasing woes, forever.—O cause me to learn the value of my soul, by the price that was paid for it. Thou didst so love the world, as to give thy Son to die for us. Thou didst not redeem us with corruptible things, such as silver and gold; but with the precious blood

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of Christ.—Lord, let me not learn the worth of my soul by its eternal loss, but by its everlasting gain.

Great God, thou hast put these awful and eternal interests in the issues of human life. Our season of time, brief and uncertain at best, is our probation, that will determine our destinies for eternity, Help me, I beseech thee, now to flee from the wrath to come, and to pursue the inheritance of bliss. Make my day and means of grace sufficient to bring me into the narrow way that leadeth unto life: and then, when thou hast served thy righteous pleasure with me here, where I have no abiding place, take me to that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Lord, lead the impenitent to inquire, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" O that they might reflect on that blackness of darkness, and on that fulness of joy, one or other of which must result to the undying spirit, from the deeds done in the body. Spread before their minds that holy and blissful rest that remaineth for the people of God; and bring into full contrast with it, the bottomless pit, the unquenchable fire, the worm that never dies, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth, prepared for the devil and his angels, and for the spirits of the lost. O do thou write over all their thoughts of these scenes, as in letters of light, ETERNITY, ETERNITY. Draw them by the cords of thy love, and incline them by the terrors of thy law, to make their peace with thee, ere the precious redemption of the soul ceaseth forever.

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.

Lord, thou dost according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and

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none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou workest all things after the counsel of thine own will. A man's heart deviseth his way, but thou directest his steps. Thou hast chosen our inheritance, and determined our changes, and fixed the number of our days. We are in thy hands, as clay in the hands of the potter.—Lord, I would adore the mystery of thy sovereignty in the works of grace. Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Thou hast mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and whom thou wilt thou hardenest. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things.—O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

Sovereign of the Universe, teach all men that it is lawful for thee to do what thou wilt with thine

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own. Wo unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherds of the earth strive with the potsherds of the earth; but let not the thing formed say to him that formed it, "Why hast thou made me thus?"—Lord, bring the hearts of the ungodly to bow in quiet and confiding submission to thy will. Make them willing in the day of thy power. May they know that thy dominion will be an everlasting dominion, even though they may never become the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom. Thou makest the wrath of men to praise thee: and when the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, then shall be heard the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia; for the Lord God, Omnipotent, reigneth."

SPIRIT.—*See Holy Ghost.*

SPIRITUALITY.

Heavenly Father, grant me, in the name of Jesus, that spiritual mind which is life and peace. Let not my heart be troubled nor careful about the things of this world; but let it choose that better part, which cannot be taken from me. May I regard the blessing of thy favour infinitely above any and all earthly good. Incline me to find my pleasure in the services of thy kingdom, and not in the debasements of sense. Purify my motives, and make the objects of my desires such as shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Ghost.—Lord, fill my soul with those spiritual joys which raise the heart above the pleasures, honours and riches of the world; which throw the gladness of hope over earth's darkest scenes; and which are

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sweet foretastes of the happiness of that land of spirits, where formality, and sense, and sin, shall give place to sincerity, devotion, and holiness.

SPRING.

Lord, thou sendest out thy word, and meltest the ice; thou causest thy wind to blow, and the waters flow. Lo! the winter is past, and the flowers appear on the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come: thou waterest the hills from thy chambers; and thy breath maketh the earth fruitful.

O may the returning warmth, the reviving verdure, the gushing waters—the universal joy of emancipated nature, create an echo of sympathy in my heart, and lead my affections and devotions up to thy throne in heaven. Enlarge, and instruct, and sanctify my mind by frequent contemplations of thee in the works of thy hands. May I hear a voice of wisdom, and mystery, and praise from every grain of sand and blade of grass; from every breath of air and cloud of heaven; from every drop of dew and shower of rain; from every beam of light and shade of darkness; from every flowing fountain and rolling river; from every peaceful valley and stable mountain. Blessed Lord, all thy works praise thee. O why should man, who enjoys thy richest blessings, be last and feeblest in his testimony to thy greatness? Grant that my thoughts may meditate on thy wonders,—that my lips may speak of thy worth—and that my life may show forth thy glory.

Fill my heart with love to thee, when I look on the bounty of nature; for thou art by it preserving the life of man and beast, and bestowing on them both gladness and plenty. Let it inspire me with

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confidence in thy providence; for if God so clothes the grass, which to-day is in the field, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe me? And if he feeds the fowls of the air, which neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, will he not also feed me? Lord, thou knowest that I have need of these things; and thou hast promised to add them unto me, if I seek first thy kingdom and righteousness.

O thou that renewest the face of the earth, grant my soul the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Whilst thou art clothing creation with the beauty and vigour of a new life, give me, I pray thee, the beauty of holiness, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Merciful God, give me wisdom to look on life, as the seedtime of man's estate, and on eternity as its harvest. They that plough iniquity, and sow wickedness, shall reap the same; but they that sow to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Lord, bless those who are in the springtime of life. May they remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Teach them that though their joy is in its opening bud, thou canst blast it, ere it become a flower—though their hope is full of light, thou canst draw over it the cloud of sorrow—though they are in the morning of life, thou canst speedily bring over them the night of death. O dispose them to give the bud of their being, the brightness of their hope, the dawn of their day, to him who made and seeks their hearts. And then, when time shall be no more, they will dwell where no cold shall wither their immortal bloom, no cloud cast a shadow over their radiant joy, and no night darken their endless day!

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SUBMISSION.

Lord, grant me, through the mediation of Jesus, the grace of submission. I pray thee let me never murmur nor rebel against either thy word or providence. Thou hast an infinite right to reign in me, and to rule over me, and to do with me, as seemeth good in thy sight. Thou canst not devise any statute, which is not founded on infinite wisdom and goodness. Thou canst not execute any measure, that is not sanctioned by righteousness and grace.

O strengthen me by faith and love, that I may bow to every token of thy will—which is indeed the perfection of knowledge, holiness, and mercy. I thank thee, Lord, for that full expression of it, which thou hast bequeathed in thy word. There thou hast given line upon line, and precept upon precept, that none may err therein. And yet how often does my heart forget and forsake, and sometimes contend against thy law. How prone is it to be unsubmissive when thou layest thy hand upon me in correction or displeasure.—O God, assist me to recognise thy hand in all the workings of thy providence; and lead me to concur cheerfully, with every intimation which thou givest in these things, of thy sovereign pleasure. Incline me, I pray thee, to receive thy commandment as the law of my language, feelings, and conduct. Let me not despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. May I be still, and know that thou art God.—[*See* AFFLICTION.]

Saviour of Man, bring the impenitent to submit to thy will. Thou wouldst indeed have them forsake their rebellion, and obey thy law; and thou art seeking to win them to obedience, by the promises of thy grace, and the warnings of thy wrath. O

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convince them that thy judgments are round about them, and that the second death is before them. Show them that their unreserved submission to thee, is their only wisdom and safety: for then, instead of being exposed to thy sore displeasure, they will be received into thy favour, and enjoy the perfect peace of him whose heart is stayed on thee.

SUMMER.

Creator of Heaven and Earth, thou hast set a tabernacle in the firmament for the sun. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing that is hid from the heat thereof.

Lord, if it please thee, preserve my health and life during these months, that are so often marked by the ravages of disease and death. Especially do thou keep my soul from the maladies of sin, and give me the saving health of thy Spirit, through the grace of the Lord Jesus. Be unto me as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.—Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, and send me thy Sun of righteousness, with healing in his wings. And through thy tender mercy, let the dayspring from on high, visit those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide their feet in the way of peace.

Great Benefactor, I thank thee for this season, in which thou art blessing the toil of the labourer, and fulfilling the desire of the husbandman. Disappoint not those who wait for the precious fruit of the earth. Let not the ground be parched with continual and oppressive heat, nor flooded by untimely and destroying rain. Let the heavens give their dew—make thou the earth soft with showers—give the

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clear shining after rain, whereby the grass springeth out of the earth—and let the land yield her increase abundantly.

Lord, whilst thou art giving seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, incline men to hunger and thirst after righteousness. Bestow on them that bread of God, which is he that came down from heaven, and gave his life for the world, that whosoever cometh to him, should never hunger, and that whosoever believeth on him, should never thirst.

O thou that givest growth and plenty, bless the good seed of thy word. As the rain cometh down from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud; so let thy word be, that goeth forth out of thy mouth: let it not return unto thee void, but accomplish that which pleases thee, and prosper in the thing whereto thou hast sent it.

Lord, when I look on the abundance which covers the earth, may I remember those moral fields that are white already to the harvest; which truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. I pray thee, for Christ's sake, send forth labourers, who shall gather fruit, unto life eternal.

Gracious Father, regard in mercy, those who, unless they turn from the error of their ways, may soon take up the lamentation—"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Break up the fallow ground of their hearts; sow in them the seed of truth; rain righteousness upon them; and make them as the garden of the Lord—for thy great name's sake.

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SWEARING.—*See Profanity.*

TALENTS.

Giver of Mercies, thou hast been pleased to commit to me various talents, which thou requirest me to occupy until thy coming. Thou hast given me time, property, influence, knowledge, and feeling, wherewith to advance thy glory, and to promote human welfare. Lord, let me not be as the wicked and slothful servant, who hid his talent in the earth, and vainly sought to avert the doom of his guilty indolence. Alas, how have the faculties and opportunities thou hast in mercy given me, been neglected, perverted, and abused. Too often I have sought my own corrupt pleasures, instead of fulfilling the exalted and ennobling duties thou hast set before me. O give me an everpresent conviction, that the means with which thou hast invested me, are only gifts in trust, which thou wilt require from me again, with usury. Help me, I beseech thee, so to understand and employ them, that in the great day of reckoning, I may receive the plaudit—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

TEACHERS.

Lord, bless all those who, in their various spheres, have taken charge of the important business of instruction. Dispose and enable them to guide the untutored and inquiring into the acquisition of knowledge; and fit them to guard from evil, and to mould for good, the characters of those who are

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committed to their care. O preserve our youth from the corrupting and destroying evils of ignorant and immoral instructers. Inform the minds, and sanctify the hearts of teachers. Give them that wisdom from above, which will prepare them to train their pupils in the highest and noblest knowledge that can adorn human nature.—Multiply the facilities of education; put them within the reach of all classes; and dispose all men to seek the intellectual, moral, and religious culture of the rising generation.

O Lord, vouchsafe, for the sake of thy dear Son, thy choicest blessings on the *Teachers of Sabbath-schools*. Give unto all of them the character and efficiency which are needful for their sacred duties. Let them not make these holy efforts, the pastime of the Sabbath, an opiate of conscience, or a service to be seen of men. But let all their impulses in them, spring from love to God and love to man. Imbue all their thoughts and labours in this work, with a supreme regard for thy glory and human welfare. While they take pleasure in every lesser degree of success, O make the conversion of souls their steadfast and absorbing aim!

Impress on their minds, the priceless value, the high dignity, the solemn obligations, and the glorious reward of their office. Show them that it relates to the worth of the soul; that it is kindred in its sympathies with the love of Jesus; that its respon sibilities take hold of eternal issues; and that its faithful discharge will make them as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars, forever and ever!

Great God, give them an experimental knowledge of that salvation which is the great and final object

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of the system.—May all their duties in it be begun, continued, and ended in earnest prayer, and with entire dependence and unwavering reliance on the ministrations of the Holy Spirit.—Give them those preparations of the heart, and that answer of the tongue, which are from thee; and grant them a mouth and wisdom, by which they may persuade their youthful charge in the things concerning the kingdom of God.—Make them able ministers of the New Testament; and let thy word dwell in them richly, in all wisdom, that they may be thoroughly furnished in their good work.—Make them fervent in spirit, that they may teach diligently, the things of the Lord.—Cause their example to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, and to allure those whom they teach, into the same path of obedience.

Lord, dispose them to avail themselves of the various helps which the wise and good have furnished for their cause; and let them not grudge the time, and toil, and cost which are necessary to prepare them to meet and instruct their classes.—Let the spirit of affection manifest itself in all their measures; and may they seek to draw their pupils with the cords of love, and the bands of a man.—Make them patient in every trial which they may encounter, through failure, or ignorance, or vice, or enmity.—May that intention to succeed which stimulates their efforts, and secures their objects, in worldly pursuits, animate them with the purpose of success in this calling; but, Lord, let this spirit ever be pervaded by a sense of dependence on thee.—Let them be punctual in all the appointments of the school; redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—Let them not be satisfied with filling up the brief hours allotted to instruction in the schoolroom;

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but may it be their pleasure (as it it is their duty) to visit the homes of their scholars; and, while they minister a word in season, secure and strengthen the good-will of both parents and children. Make them wise to know, and skilful to use, the influences which mould human character and conduct.—Let all the mutual relations of teachers be governed by the fellowship of saints.—Suffer none to draw back in weariness or discouragement from these precious duties; but do thou make them always abound in this work of the Lord.—O Lord, grant that the eye of their faith may ever be fixed on that promise—"In due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not:" and that the ear of their hope may ever listen to that verdict—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Gracious God, give them abundant success in their labours. Make them leading instruments in spreading divine knowledge, enlarging missionary efforts, sanctifying thy church, promoting revivals of religion, and regenerating the world.

TEMPER.

Lord, sanctify my temper. Preserve me from peevishness, envy, anger, revenge, and malice. Enable me to maintain an unruffled spirit amid the vexations of circumstances, and the provocations of my fellow-creatures. May that wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, be the governing influence of my life, and lead me to seek the fruit of righteousness, which is sown in peace, of them that make peace. Enable me to imitate the quiet meekness of him who lived as our Example, as well as died as our Redeemer. Lord,

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keep me from those occasional or habitual excitements of temper, which rob my mind of comfort, dishonour my profession of thy name, and turn away thy precious favour. Vouchsafe unto me, O God, the continual presence of that ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in thy sight is of great price.

TEMPERANCE.—*See Intemperance.*

TEMPTATION.

Great God, make me realize that I live in constant danger of temptations from foes without and enemies within. Satan, with his countless wiles —my own heart, with its self-deceit and sensuality —the world, with its many lures—each seeks to draw me from the paths of duty, and to lead me in the ways of unrighteousness. Lord, thou hast, indeed, purposes of wisdom, in suffering me to be thus subject to temptation. Thou canst overrule it for my conformity to Christ, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. It is in such seasons, O Most High, that thy strength is made perfect in our weakness; and that we are enabled to glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on us. And thou often givest us, in mercy, the messengers of Satan, to buffet us, lest we be exalted above measure. They that are tried, and found faithful, shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for me in every season of trial—in the hour of adversity—in the day of prosperity—in the period when exemption from temptation has left me open to se-

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duction—and when the abounding consolations of thy Spirit have been perverted into heedlessness towards the spiritual dangers which beset me. Give me wisdom to discover, and strength to resist, the approach of evil. Let me say at every enticement, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" May I watch unto prayer, knowing that thou art a very present help in every hour of need; and that thou wilt, with the temptation, also make a way of escape, for all that are of thy heritage.—Lord, carry me safely through every danger, and in thine own time, give me an inheritance among those who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white, in the blood of the Lamb!

THANKSGIVING.

Lord, I bring unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving; for thou art the Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift. I desire to praise thee for the multitude of thy favours, and to acknowledge that I have not deserved even the least of them. I would magnify thee for thy providing, sparing, forgiving, and saving mercies. I I bless thee for the various powers of my body, the faculties of my mind, and the affections of my heart; for health and employment; for food and clothing; for social happiness and public safety. I thank thee for preserving me in the weakness and diseases of childhood, and conducting me over the slippery paths of youth, and protecting me amid the dangers of riper years. Thou hast indeed made my life which ought, in justice, to have been a wilderness, to bud and blossom as the rose. My trials have

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been few and short; while my mercies have been without number and without end.

But, O Lord, I would thank thee for the blessings of the gospel, more than for every thing else. O what a rich cluster of gifts is offered to us in the grace that bringeth salvation. Thou hast given us the Bible, the preached word, the privilege of prayer, the ordinances of thy house, the Son of God, the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and the hope of glory. Lord, teach me the value of thy bounties. Strengthen my memory that I may retain a knowledge of them. Fill my heart with gratitude and love, because of thine unnumbered, unmerited blessings. May they lead me to repentance, humility, and faith, and to consecrate them and myself to thy service and glory.

THEATRE.

Heavenly Father, create an intelligent and virtuous public sentiment in relation to the dangers of theatres; and let it be such as shall lead to their speedy abandonment and suppression. Dispel the fallacy of those who regard the playhouse as a "school of morals." Let the character of its teachers and pupils, the language it offers to the ear, and the scenes it presents to the eye, with its appendages of intemperance and lewdness, be swift witnesses to all men, that it is a *school of vice.* Lord, keep our youth from venturing into the magic circles of its corrupting influence. O how many, for whom a father's daily toil and a mother's anxious care, have been spent, have laid here the sure foundation of dissipation, fraud, debauchery, and ruin. O when shall the offerings to this Moloch cease? Although drunk with the blood of souls, its voice is still "Give

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give!" And still its courts, and shambles, and altars are crowded with the living sacrifices.

God of Israel, let none who profess thy name, give the theatre their patronage. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what concord hath Christ with Belial? Persuade the moral and influential, who now encourage and uphold this system, that it is full of danger to private good and public welfare. Direct the popular taste, which now sanctions and demands this amusement, into other and better pursuits. Let the joys of the domestic circle, the pleasures of social intercourse, and the pursuit of useful knowledge, have more attractions than the mimic fancies of the playhouse. Turn many feet, that stray to it nightly, into the house of God; there to learn, instead of the fictions of worldly scenes, the realities of endless life.—Lord, cause these walls that now echo to the foolish song, the profane jest, and the licentious speech, to resound with the hymn of praise, the voice of prayer, and the word of God. Let the temple of Satan become the tabernacle of the Most High!

THEFT.

Blessed God, cause all dishonesty to cease from the face of the earth. Let men no longer unjustly hinder their neighbour's wealth or outward estate. Destroy that spirit of covetousness which urges mankind to fraud, robbery, and oppression, and to be partakers of unholy gain. Do thou cause the principles of strict and impartial honesty to govern the relations of commerce, and of master and servant. Give currency and influence, I pray thee, to that blessed rule, of doing unto others as we would they should do unto us.

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Lord keep me from indulging in any form of dishonesty. Make me just to all the lawful interests of my fellows. Let me never desire to increase my own substance at their expense; nor to withhold from any, however humble or unworthy, the debts of justice and humanity. Incline me always to rejoice in the good of my neighbour, and to walk uprightly and work righteousness.

TIME.—*See Life.*

TONGUE.

Lord, make my voice a testimony of praise unto thee, and an organ of wisdom and love unto men. Dispose me to speak of thine excellent goodness, to confess my manifold transgressions, and to supplicate thy satisfying mercies. Give me grace to proclaim and defend thy word. Make me an advocate of the innocent and the oppressed. Incline me to encourage that which is good, and to reprove that which is evil. May I seek useful knowledge, with the purpose of teaching it to others. And, Lord, I would fervently implore thee, for Christ's sake, that I may be led to persuade men to be reconciled to thee, by the death of thy Son.

Great Author of Goodness, I thank thee for the gift of speech. But, O, I desire to realize that it is an instrument whose uses are fearfully abused. How often, alas! does the tongue become an unruly member, and full of deadly poison; producing envying and strife, confusion and every evil work. Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips. Keep my tongue from evil, and my lips from speaking guile. Thou hast said, that if any man seem to be religious, and bridleth

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not his tongue, he deceiveth his own heart; and his religion is vain. Enable me to bring forth good things out of the good treasure of the heart, and let my words be of the uprightness of my heart. Put away from me all bitterness and evil speaking; and let no corrupt communication proceed out of my mouth, but that which is good, to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.—[*See* SLANDER.]

TRACTS.

Heavenly Father, bless the efforts which are made to spread thy truth, by means of tracts. It was in this form thou didst first cause to be gathered the words of wisdom, which holy men spake of old, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. As thou didst then set the seal of thy favour on such instruments, so thou art now using them as means of turning sinners from death unto life.

Lord, bless those societies, in our own and other countries, which have undertaken to promote, in this way, the welfare of thy kingdom. Give them wisdom and grace in all their measures. May they be sustained by the prayers, and gifts, and labours of thy people. O that all the children of Zion would feelingly understand the power of the press, in furnishing these leaves for the healing of the nations. I thank thee for the influence which has been given to them in heathen lands, and for the rich promises which the signs of the times afford, as to their future usefulness, both at home and abroad. I pray thee, multiply their number, and send them to all the dark places of the earth, as winged messengers, proclaiming the everlasting gospel.

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Lord, extend and bless their circulation in our own land. Grant thy rich favour to the monthly distribution, wherever it is sustained; and do thou cause it to be established in every community in our country. May all who have undertaken that plan of benevolence, connect with it personal efforts for the conversion of souls. While they supply the temporal wants of the poor, and give the Bible to the destitute, and gather neglected children into Sunday-schools, and seek to stay the desolations of intemperance, O may they realize that their great work, in connexion with their tract distribution, is to labour personally and faithfully, for the salvation of those with whom they are thus brought in contact. Sanction abundantly, all such efforts, by the enlightening, convincing, and converting power of the Holy Spirit.

TRAVELLING.

O thou that directest the steps of men, preserve me from accident, sickness, and death, when I am absent from home; and restore me to its comforts and privileges, refreshed and strengthened for all its various duties. I beseech thee especially, that thou wouldst warn me against the spiritual dangers to which I am exposed in such seasons; and do thou enable me to escape them, and gather profit to myself, and do good to others, in all my journeyings. Suffer me not to neglect secret prayer, nor the reading of thy word, nor the study of my heart. Let not my mind be dissipated by idleness, nor my soul be corrupted by pleasure. Permit not my character to take its colour from every object it meets. If I must mingle with the wicked, allow me to have no fellowship with their works of darkness, but

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rather to reprove them. Let me not profane thy holy Sabbath by continuing to travel on it; nor refrain from its services, when I rest through its sacred hours. And suffer me not to do any thing which I would avoid amid the restraints of the family, or among those that know me.—May I make the Bible my companion, and the throne of grace my home, in all my travels. Give me courage and grace to defend the truth, and to do good, as I have opportunity. Make me realize that wherever I go, thine eye is upon me; and let this impression make the state of my heart, and the tenor of my life, such as become a profession of godliness.—O may I say, at the outset of every journey, with thy servant of old, "Lord, if thy presence go not with me, carry me not up hence."

TRINITY.

Great God, cause my understanding to acknowledge, and my heart to adore, the mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who are the same in substance, equal in power and glory, and who constitute the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Godhead. Lord, let not my feeble and erring judgment stagger at nor exalt itself against the testimony of thy word: but what thou hast revealed, that may I receive with a willing mind. O do thou enable me to receive the Father, in all the fulness of his love—the Son, in all the riches of his atonement—and the Spirit, in all the sanctifying power of his grace.

God of Truth, banish that heresy, which, in the pride of human reason, would vainly seek to pervert the doctrine of the Unity of the Godhead, so as to destroy the belief of the glorious Trinity. May all

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men learn that there are three that bear record in heaven, and that these three are one. May they honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; and worship that Spirit, whose ministrations are life because of righteousness!

TRUST.—*See Confidence.*

TRUTH.

Heavenly Father, dispel every form of error, by the power of uncorrupted truth. Lord, thy word is truth. Give it, therefore, free course, that it may be glorified in redeeming the corrupt and wandering minds of men, from the deceptions of prejudice and error. Bring all mankind to a knowledge of it, and especially of the truth as it is in Jesus, which only is able to make them wise unto salvation. Instruct them in that mystery, which was hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to the saints; which is Christ, in them, the hope of glory.

Lord, assist me to love thy truth, and to seek its promotion, even though it may cover me with rebuke and shame. May it turn me from every refuge of lies, and bring me to trust in thee with all my heart. May sincerity dwell in my soul, and truth have its image in my heart, and verity be found on my lips. Teach me to abhor deceit in every possible form. May I remember that nothing can enter the holy city that maketh or loveth a lie; and that the lip of truth shall be established forever.—[*See* FALSEHOOD.]

Great God, thou art the fountain of untarnished truth, and with thee there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning. No form of deceit has ever

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cast a stain on the purity of thy purposes and dealings. Though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed. Thy word is the counsels of faithfulness; thy promises are all Yea and Amen; and thy threatenings, though they be not speedily executed, shall be fulfilled in righteousness. O Lord, give me such a persuasion of thy faithfulness, as shall encourage and strengthen my heart in every endurance of trial, and in every performance of duty. Help me to commit the keeping of my soul unto thee, in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

UNBELIEF.

Adorable Jehovah, I beseech thee, let there not be in me an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. May I ever regard it as the parent of all iniquity: for if faith were perfect, there would be no transgression. Assist me to know and feel that this sin dishonours thy glorious name, thy precious word, and thy righteous providence. Make me feel that it shuts out the light of thy countenance, and brings the darkness of spiritual ignorance and death over my soul. O may I reflect on the doom of him that believeth not, and is condemned already. Enable me to watch unto prayer, against this destroying evil. Protect me from the influences which lead to it—from Satan, from ignorance, from pride, and from sensuality. Lord, redeem me from its power, by the teachings of thy word and Spirit. Rebuke it by the example of thine ancient saints, who all died in faith, not having received the promises; but having seen them afar off, were persuaded of them, and embraced them. Give my

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judgment a clear perception of truth, and bring my affections into submission to thy will: and then, thanks be to thy name, I shall believe with my heart unto righteousness, and praise thee in the obedience of faith. Lord, I would believe; help thou mine unbelief.—[*See* FAITH.]

UNDERSTANDING.

Omniscient Jehovah, I thank thee for the gift of my understanding, by which I may acquire knowledge, and without which I should be ignorant of thy law, and should live as the brutes that perish. I pray thee, in the name of the Heavenly Advocate, that thou wouldst make me feel the solemn responsibilities which belong to the noble faculty of reason. Let not ignorance, nor prejudice, nor depravity control its exercises. Preserve it from error, and guide it into the knowledge of truth. Make it a storehouse of useful knowledge. Direct its energies chiefly towards that wisdom which is from above. Grant me enlarged and discriminating views of thy character, works, and will. Dispose me, great God, to submit my judgment to the tokens of thy mind, in all things; for thine understanding is infinite.

UNION.

Shepherd of Israel, teach thy people how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is as the dew that descended on the mountains of Zion; there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. May they mourn over the unkindness and strife that so often prevail among those who bear the same party name. May they lament over the sectional feelings which

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alienate the members of different communions, and forbid the universal fellowship of saints. God of Peace, let not Ephraim envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim.

O Lord, why should there be any other test of brotherhood than that of *union to Christ?* Why should the children of adoption treat each other as strangers and foreigners? Why should those who expect to be joint-heirs of the inheritance of heaven, refuse fellowship with each other on earth? O God of Love, rebuke every spirit of dissension. Bring together all the scattered fragments of thy church, and bind them by that charity which is the bond of perfectness. As there is but one Shepherd, so let there be but one fold. As there is but one King, so let there be but one dominion. Let the heritage of God be a household of faith, that shall stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel. Lord, cause the unity of the spirit to bring together all thy followers in the bond of peace; that they may be one, even as the Father and Son are ONE!

USEFULNESS.

God of Salvation, I would ask thee in the name of thy dear Son, to dispose me to do good as I have opportunity; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. May I remember that every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Thou hast placed me in the garden of thy providence, not merely that I should gather fruit for myself, but for others also. Thou hast put me into the fruitful field of thy grace, not that I might obtain food for myself only, but also that I might give the bread of life to others. Christ has

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not died for me that I should live unto myself, but unto him, in the spirit of his gospel; which is good-will toward men. Teach me, O Lord, that life does not consist so much in length of days, as in the multitude of our acts of justice and mercy to mankind. I pray thee, direct me to such means and objects of good-will, as shall qualify me to be a follower of Jesus, who went about doing good. Keep me from weariness in well-doing. Lead me to supply the wants of the needy, to comfort the distresses of the afflicted, and to remove the causes of misfortune and guilt. Enable me to instruct the ignorant, to reprove the wicked, to strengthen the good, and to win souls from the mazes of error and sin, to the ways of truth and holiness.

WAR.

God of Peace, give me a heart to mourn over the temporal and spiritual woes that have been inflicted on our guilty race by war. For from the days of ungodly Cain, contention and carnage have filled up the measure of every generation; and thou hast written the proof of human depravity, in the whole history of the world; every page of which is red with the blood of man.

Lord, instruct all men in relation to the evils and remedies of war. Show them that it involves nations in oppressive debt, cripples the productive industry of countries, and spreads poverty and desolation over the homes of plenty and comfort. Let their sympathies follow its ravages, where it makes the parent childless, the wife a widow, the child an orphan, and the sister brotherless. May they dwell on the bleeding wounds, and the dying strife of the battle-field, where untold millions have been cut off

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in the midst of health and life. And O, let their deep compassions pursue its havoc into that land of souls, where these crowds of immortal spirits have been driven; alas, how seldom with any hope of salvation!

I bless thee, gracious God, that the thoughts of the humane and good have been directed to this subject, in the hope of lessening and banishing its evils; and that a public sentiment is forming, which acknowledges its woes, and seeks its suppression. Do thou reconcile, upon the basis of truth, every discordant opinion and measure for its extirpation. Unite for this object, the desires and efforts of the benevolent and pious in every land. Let thy blessed gospel, which is peace on earth, supplant everywhere that selfishness and revenge, which are the fruitful sources of national strife. O God, break the bow; burn the chariot in the fire; beat the sword into a ploughshare, and the spear into a pruninghook; and make wars to cease unto the end of the earth!

WATCHFULNESS.

Lord, instruct me in the nature of the spiritual dangers by which I am beset, and make me ever watchful against their open or secret influences. Make me vigilant against the corruptions of my own heart—its love of indulgence, of riches, and of display. Inspire me with carefulness in my intercourse with the world, lest it draw me aside into the paths of vanity and sin. Enable me to watch against the temptations of Satan, who is the adversary of the soul, and seeks its destruction by countless stratagems. Let the memory of my past falls and backslidings, make me heedful lest I become

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entangled in like snares. May my loins be girt about, and my light be burning; and may I receive the blessing of those servants, whom, when the Lord cometh, he shall find watching.

WIDOWHOOD.

Lord, regard in mercy her from whom thou hast taken her earthly stay and comfort. Thou hast indeed stricken her in her dearest and tenderest ties The light of her eyes, the counsellor of her mind, the helper of her weakness, the soother of her sorrows, the partner of her joys—thou hast removed, without the hope of return. But thou art the husband of the widow, and the father of the fatherless. O may her desolate heart trust in thee above every human refuge, and realize that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to heal her griefs, and supply her need. Pour thou the oil of consolation into her bereaved and aching bosom, and cause her heart to sing for joy, because of thy comforts. Raise up for her those whose sympathies will cheer her wounded spirit, whose counsels will encourage her sinking hopes, and whose help will assist her in struggling with a selfish and unfeeling world. Protect her from unkindness and oppression. Open up for her a pathway of peace and plenty.

Blessed Jesus, make her thine in the espousals of thy love. Thou canst be more unto her than he whose cherished presence and affection she has lost. Thou art able to turn her darkness into light, her grief into joy, and her want into abundance. Thou canst teach her, in the day of her afflicting visitation, the things which belong to her peace, and make the time of her earthly loss, the season of

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her eternal gain. Be thou unto her the chief among ten thousand, and one altogether lovely. Say unto her, "Fear not, I am with thee; I, even I, am he that comforteth thee: thy Maker is thy husband."

WILL.

Sovereign of the Universe, sanctify my will. Give it grace always to choose that which is good, and to reject that which is evil. I would lament before thee its proneness to forsake thy holy law, and to follow after selfish pleasure. That faculty which thou didst put within me, to guide me to righteous obedience, alas! how often does it urge me on to unholy rebellion. Lord, restore it to that strength and purity, which it enjoyed when thou didst first send forth man from thy creating power, in thine own blessed image. O let me not choose any thing that is opposed to thy holy will. Cleanse thou the fountain of my desires, and make it as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

WILL OF GOD.—*See Obedience, Submission.*

WINTER.

Lord, who can stand before thy cold? Thou givest snow like wool, and scatterest the hoar-frost like ashes. By thy breath the breadth of the waters is straitened. The singing of birds has yielded to the sighing of winds, and the howling of tempests. The trees which once hung out their garments of verdure, and ornaments of fruit, to please the eye, and regale the taste of man, now spread their naked and unsightly limbs over a barren landscape; and the earth that lately teemed with the beauty and

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abundance of life, is now wrapped in the cold windingsheet of nature!

Yet, O Lord, let me not be heedless of thy mercy and wisdom, in the arrangements of even these gloomy months. In the midst of all this barrenness, thou preservest the life of man and beast. Behold the fowls of the air, which neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns; yet our Heavenly Father feedeth them. These seeming desolations are the repose of nature; and thou art keeping in safety beneath them, the germs of seedtime and the promise of harvest. In due time thou wilt bring forth, refreshed and renewed by the sleep of Winter, the green herb, the waving leaf, the smiling flower, and the rushing waters, to cheer and bless the heart of man, and praise and magnify the greatness of God.

Merciful Father, I thank thee for the abundant food, the convenient raiment, and the protecting home I enjoy, in the inclemency that surrounds me. May the rigours of the season be strong and unfailing motives for gratitude to God, and mercy to man. Cause my heart to abound with pity to the destitute. Let me not say to them, with heartless charity, "Be ye warmed and filled;" and notwithstanding, give them not those things which are needful for the body. Dispose me to open my hand to the needy—remembering that thou hast said, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor."

Lord, may I regard this season as the emblem of adversity. Life is indeed not all sunshine, and pleasure, and plenty. It has its days and months of darkness, and sorrow, and want. O prepare me, by the grace that is derived through Jesus, for its severest vicissitudes. Make me feel that I deserve

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to have my joys withered, and my hopes blasted; and that thou wilt be fulfilling only the dictates of merciful justice, if thou shouldst at times withhold thy favour, and visit me with thy frown, in this world, that thou mayest save me from destruction, in the world to come.

Teach me to look on Winter as the type of the grave. As thou buriest the beauty and excellence of the earth in its icy shroud, so thou hidest the generations of men beneath the clods of the valley. And as thou wilt bring forth from this tomb of the year, the fertile beauty of the spring; so thou wilt bring up from the long desolation of death, that which was sown in dishonour, that it may be raised in glory! Lord, grant that in the renewing power of that great day, I may share in the resurrection of the just, and enjoy the light of thy countenance, and the bliss of thy love, forever!

WISDOM.

Lord, thou hast said that if any man lack wisdom let him ask of thee, and it shall be given him. I would come before thee, Merciful Father, feeling the weakness of my judgment, and its unfitness, without strength from thee, to enable me to discharge aright the various duties of life. I pray thee, keep my understanding from error, fill it with knowledge, and govern it by prudence. Especially do thou give me that wisdom that is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Vouchsafe unto me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, that the eyes of my understanding being enlightened, I may know what is the hope of his

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calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And grant me, the blessedness of knowing, by my own experience, that he that winneth souls is wise.

WISDOM OF GOD.

Great God, who hath been thy counsellor, or who hath directed thy judgment? Lo, thou workest all things according to the counsels of thine own will. O Lord, how manifold are thy works: in wisdom thou hast made them all. Thy discerning and directing mind is seen everywhere in the works of thy hands, in the ways of thy providence, and in the government of thy creatures. Thou choosest thine ends, and framest all thy means according to knowledge. Thy counsels are steadfast, thy thoughts are deep, and thine understanding is infinite.

O Lord, thou hast gathered, as into a radiant focus, the power and glory of thy wisdom, in the work of redemption. Into this the angels desire to look; but they cannot measure its matchless strength and fulness. Herein are those mysteries of thy grace—*God manifest in the flesh—he who knew no sin was made sin for us—while we were sinners Christ died for us—thou canst be just, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus!* O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!

Omniscient Jehovah, I desire to put all my trust in thee; for thou knowest both how to provide and to deliver. I would acknowledge thee with prayer in all my ways; for thou only canst direct my steps. I would submit to thy will, which is the perfection

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of reason. And I would adore thee, because thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy wisdom!

WORLD.

Lord, keep me from conformity to the world. May I use it, as not abusing it; having my affections set on things above, and not on things on the earth. Show me that its pleasures are few in number, brief in existence, unsatisfying in their nature, and corrupting in their influence. Let me not seek to unite the service of God and mammon. Lord, I would love and hold to thee, and hate and despise the other. O, what is a man profited, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Assist me, I pray thee, to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, knowing that it is a sphere of danger, in which my heart is tempted to wander from God, to forget eternity, to neglect my noblest duties, and to live in sense and sin. I cannot, and indeed I should not desire to, withdraw from the business of the world, and from intercourse with worldly men; but I beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wouldst abide with me on all those occasions which require me to mingle with such scenes and companions. Teach me thy way, and lead me in a plain path, for the sake of my own purity, and the welfare of them that observe me. Let me not pollute my own soul, by being a partaker of ungodliness. Make me an epistle of Christ, known and read of all men. May my words be fitly spoken, and my conduct be according to godliness. Give me grace to walk in wisdom to them that are without, persuading them to taste and see that the Lord is good, and teaching them that religion's ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are peace.

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Gracious God, open my eyes to the moral condi tion of this world, that lieth in wickedness. Un fold to me its Pagan idolatry and Mahommedan delusion; its Jewish unbelief and Papal corruptions; its religious heresies and infidel deceptions; its bloody wars and cruel oppressions; its open wickedness and secret abominations. O that pity, and grief, and zeal might fill my soul as it dwells on these works of evil. Lord, cast them out, and let truth, love, and holiness fill the earth, as the waters cover the sea.

WORSHIP.

Adorable Jehovah, thou art exalted above princi palities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. All thy works praise thee. Bestow on me, in the name of Jesus, that grace which will qualify me to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let me not seek to draw nigh to thee with my lips, while my heart is far from thee; nor take the attitude of devotion, while my thoughts wander among the cares and pleasures of life. If the language of insincerity be offensive when offered to a fellow-being, how much more when it is presented to the God of Truth! May strong convictions of thy greatness and presence rest upon me, and make me suitably afraid. Make me feel that I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity, I dare not come before thee, but should take up my abode where there is no mercy-seat, and no answer of peace to the cry of despairing want.

Gracious God, let all my approaches to thee be in humble reliance upon the merits of Christ. Give me such an impression of thy goodness, in the boun

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ties of thy providence and the covenant of thy grace, that I shall go to thee with the love and confidence of a child to its father; for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, grant me such views of thy character, and of my own wants and those of mankind, as shall dispose me to magnify thy name, with an adoring and grateful spirit, and lead me to seek thy favour by fervent and believing supplication.

Lord, bless the assemblies of thy saints. May reverence, love, and faith, animate their devotions. May thy praise be sung with holy affections; thy favour be sought with believing hearts; thy word be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit, and be heard as a message of divine wisdom and mercy. Bring into thy sanctuaries those who neglect thy worship; and fill thy courts with such as live regardless of thy statutes. Grant, O Lord, that all the solemn feasts of thy house may be seasons of refreshing from thy presence, in which saints shall grow in grace, and many prodigals be brought into the adoption of the sons of God; to the glory of thy mercy in Jesus, both now and forever.

YOUNG CONVERTS.

Gracious God, behold in special mercy, those who have been recently born again, and who are still in the infancy of spiritual life. Chase away forever the cloud of condemnation that has so long hung over them, and on its retiring darkness, cast thy bow of promise, speaking peace to their souls. Let Jesus be the abiding and absorbing centre of their hopes; and may they cheerfully profess his name before men. May they strive to make holi-

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ness the law of all their conduct. Let thy spirit sanctify their hearts from every corruption, and lead them into the knowledge and love of every truth. Preserve their pliant minds from the reception of those errors, which pervert the judgment and obscure the piety of so many in the church. Animate them by a pure, and wise, and steadfast zeal to promote thy cause, in the salvation of sinners; and let them regard no sacrifice too expensive, no labour too toilsome, and no suffering too severe, which thou mayest demand of them, in building up thy kingdom on earth.

Lord, cause the honour of thy name to be the leading impulse of their lives. Make thy word their daily counsel. May they live at the throne of grace. Let self-examination keep its constant watch over their hearts. Permit them not to tamper with temptation. Keep them from conformity to the world. Suffer them not to decline from their first love; but cause it to grow stronger and stronger.—Lord give completeness to their Christian character. Do thou blend in them zeal with dependence, confidence with humility, and joy with obedience. Write thy will upon every rising desire. and let every action be moulded according to thy good pleasure. Bring them speedily, O God, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ!

YOUTH.

Heavenly Father, bless our youth. Preserve them from the corrupting dangers which so easily affect and control their forming characters. Keep their hopes, and judgments, and affections from pursuing the things which bring ruin on the soul. Incline them now to seek thy service, ere the cares of this

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world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of the flesh, harden their hearts, stifle their consciences, and cause them to turn a deaf ear to the calls of mercy. Suffer them not to put off the claims of religion to what they vainly think a more convenient season. May they learn that youth is the time to serve the Lord; that now is their accepted time and day of salvation: while, if they put off repentance and faith, sin will gather fearful strength in their souls, and make their redemption more and more hopeless. Lord, may they remember that the tenderest tokens of thy love have been directed towards the young. Thou hast urged them with the most persuasive entreaties, to give thee their hearts, and hast promised that those who seek thee early shall find thee, and rejoice in thee all their days. But O, if such will continue to refuse instruction, and despise reproof, they shall eat of the fruit of their own ways, and be filled with their own devices.

Merciful God, restore every wandering prodigal. —Watch over all who are absent from the wholesome restraints of home. Let them not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. May they shun, as they would the pestilence, the dwelling of the syren, the table of the gamester, the seat of the playhouse, and the cup of the drunkard.—Cause the memory of parental toil, and love, and hope, to turn them back from the way of sinners. Throw around them the protecting shelter of morality, and put within them the controlling power of grace.

Lord, thou knowest that our youth are the expectation of the church, and the hope of our race. The history of the world in future ages, will be determined by the character of those who are now training for the responsibilities of life. If they shall

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be nurtured in righteousness, then humanity and piety shall rejoice in their labours: but if they shall be tutored in the lessons of vice, then the precious interests of mankind shall mourn because of them. O do thou make the rising generation the instruments of introducing the blessings of the Millennium, and not the means of thrusting back into future ages, that latter-day glory. Bring multitudes of them into the household of faith. Enlist their warm feelings and self-denying zeal, in behalf of religious enterprises. May they enter with gladness and energy, into those fields that lie fallow—or those that grow ripe for the harvest—and gather fruit abundantly, for the garners of eternal life.—[*See* CHILDREN, and EARLY PIETY.]

ZEAL.

O thou that lovest them that obey thee, make me zealous of good works Grant me that zeal which is according to wisdom, love, and holiness. Reprove my lukewarmness, my instability, and my backsliding. Let not my pursuits of earthly things, which perish in the using, excite me to more energy and perseverance, than the strong and urgent claims of obedience to thy commands. Lead me to inquire diligently, what thou wilt have me to do; for I am bound to glorify thee in my body and spirit which are thine. May I hear the language of thy word, and the voice of thy providence, calling me to gird up my loins in thy service. Stimulate my diligence by the records of thy saints, who have devoted their lives and their all, to doing good. Fix in my memory, I pray thee, the noble example of Christ, who took upon himself the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the

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death of the cross, that the culprits of heavenly justice might be saved from their condemnation.—O Lord, enable me to realize the unspeakable value of religious duties, undertaken in thy strength, in saving souls from death, in comforting and strengthening my own heart, and in procuring, through thy mercy in Christ, thy favour in this world, and thy blessedness in that which is to come. What my hand findeth to do, may I do it with my might. Heavenly Father, make me fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. And while the blessing of my zeal in thy service shall be mine, the praise of it shall be thine Father, Son, and Spirit, forever. Amen.

THE END.

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